



# PERVERT ESCAPE SHOCKS VICTIM

Report by Judith Hawkins

**ONE of the victims of a perverted Black Country religious leader is worried that he will assault more children after fleeing the country.**

Paedophile Hafiz Rahman, 58, was found guilty of five charges of indecent assault at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

But after the jury found him guilty in just 20 minutes, perverted Rahman boarded a flight to Bangladesh to avoid being sentenced.

Rahman was the imam at Queens Cross mosque in Cradley Heath. He was convicted of crimes against the girls in the 1980s, when he was supposed to be giving them religious instruction.



Hafiz Rahman – on run

One of his victims, who was under 10 at the time she was preyed upon, says she is 'angry and frustrated' by Rahman's escape from justice.

Speaking at her semi-detached home in the West Midlands, the mother-of-one – who uses the pen name Nabila Sharma – said her relief at Rahman's conviction was followed by shock at his escape.

"I was 100 per cent sure he was going to get off," she said. "But when I heard he was guilty it was as if a huge weight had been lifted off my shoulders."

## Warned

"The fact that those 12 jurors believed me and it only took 20 minutes for them to decide shows I was right."

But Ms Sharma said she was shocked that Rahman had been able to travel to Bangladesh, adding that she had warned police he would run away.

"I was actually surprised he came to court as I thought he would've done a runner a long time ago. When I heard he had actually done it I was just in shock. I don't know why his passport was given back to him."

"I feel like it's been a waste of time and my worry is he could do this again now, in another country."

Rahman, of Ballard Road, Netherton, sexually assaulted two girls at the mosque in a string of attacks in the 1980s. The victims, aged under 10 at the time, had gone to the mosque for religious studies.

The Foreign Office will work with police in Bangladesh to track down the father-of-seven and extradite him to Britain.

Rahman was found guilty of five out of seven charges of indecent assault. He was cleared of two. He will be sentenced on November 3, in person or in his absence.

## DISGUST AT MESS AS FLY-TIPPERS TARGET SITE



A discarded doll's head adds a macabre touch to this shocking scene of piles of rubbish dumped on Turner's Hill

THIS is not an official rubbish dump or landfill site but open land in the heart of the Black Country where an incredible amount of rubbish has been dumped by fly-tippers.

The trail of rubbish extends for dozens of metres at Turner's Hill in Rowley Regis.

The piles of rubbish at the site, off Portway Hill, is just a short distance from the huge phone mast, a landmark which can be seen for miles around.

The scale of the mess has outraged people in the area.

A stunned Councillor Maria Crompton said:

"It's absolutely disgusting. If it was brought in a lorry or van it must have been several lots. It looks like they have got through the gate to access the driveway."

## Clean-up

"Somebody must have seen something. If anyone did, I hope they will come forward."

The clean-up process has been made complicated as it is not clear who owns the site, although the land is thought to be owned by telecoms giant BT.

Councillor Crompton said it was the worst

example of fly-tipping she had ever seen and it is unclear how long it will take to be cleared.

Councillor Crompton added: "Environmental Health and the security people have been informed."

It is the latest in several major fly-tipping incidents across Sandwell in recent months. Last month, bags of rubbish including broken chairs, carpets and clothing were dumped outside Langley Green station in Western Road. That came after shameless fly-tippers were caught on camera dumping two sofas in Smethwick's Foundry Lane from a white van.

## DEVELOPMENT

### £27m rail innovation hub gets green light

THE green light has been given for a £27.8 million 'very light rail' innovation centre in Dudley. Outline plans for the complex at Castle Hill were approved by Dudley Council's development control committee on Monday.

The innovation centre would be for the design and construction of lightweight rail vehicles with research and development laboratories, as well as facilities for manufacturing, conferences and training. Council chiefs have promised the 'world class' centre will create 225 jobs, 331 apprenticeships and 33 new businesses by 2021.

## RETAIL

### Kristian leaps in to open Aldi store

OLYMPIC gymnast Kristian Thomas will officially open the new Aldi store on Priory Road today (Thursday).

Hundreds were anticipated at the Dudley store's unveiling at 8am.

The London 2012 bronze medallist, from Wolverhampton, who trains at Earls Gymnastics Club in Halesowen, was due to greet shoppers.

The first 100 customers in the queue will have the opportunity to win prizes including TVs, smartphones and groceries.

## COURT

### 14-year-old denies stabbing man, 18

A 14-year-old boy has denied stabbing a man in Sedgley High Street.

The youngster, who cannot be named, appeared before a District Judge at Wolverhampton Youth Court.

He entered a not guilty plea to a single charge of wounding with intent relating to the incident on Sunday, October 9.

The case was adjourned until tomorrow (Friday) at Wolverhampton Crown Court. The boy was remanded in youth detention.

The 18-year-old victim was found with a stab wound to his stomach. He is recovering in hospital.

## INSIDE

### JUSTIN TIME – IT'S BIEBER



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# Five arrested in connection with murder



Karl Swift – died from injuries

**FIVE men have been arrested in connection with the murder of a man who was found injured in Halesowen.**

Karl Swift, aged 33, from South Yorkshire, was found with serious head injuries on New Road, Halesowen, on Friday, September 9.

He was taken to hospital where he died from his injuries the following day.

Four men – aged 58, 51, 29 – and another man aged 29, all from Sheffield, along with a 23-year-old man from

Rotherham, were arrested in Yorkshire on suspicion of murder.

Senior investigating officer Detective Inspector Paul Joyce, of West Midlands Police's homicide team, said the arrests marked a major development in the investigation but witnesses were still being sought.

## Pub

He said: "The arrests are a significant development in the investigation.

"But we are still keen to hear from anyone who was in the area on Thurs-

day, September 8, and into the early hours of Friday morning."

DI Joyce added: "We still believe there may have been an incident at the William Shenstone Wetherspoons pub in Halesowen prior to Mr Swift leaving.

"I would urge anyone who was in the pub between 4pm and 10pm on Thursday, September 8, who has not yet spoken to us, to call my team."

Information can be passed directly to DI Joyce by calling 101 or, to speak anonymously, call the independent Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

# Club to make way for bigger Lidl car park

**HALESOWEN Members Club is to be demolished so that Lidl on Hagley Road can extend its supermarket car park.**

The plans to demolish the club were approved at Dudley Council's development control committee on Monday after a vote.

The demolition is going ahead despite concerns over the loss of the venue, which dates back to the 1950s, as well as worries over increased congestion on Hagley Road.

The approved application follows a previous failed attempt by the supermarket to increase the car park capacity by 75 spaces, refused in February. The proposals were amended, with a new application asking instead for 57 parking spaces to be created.

The applicants changed the design of the access to address concerns over whether it could deal with increased traffic, and added a pedestrian refuge.

There was praise for the applicants from committee member Councillor David Stanley, who said: "I am very pleased with Lidl. They haven't gone to appeal, they have gone back to work on the plans."

## Traffic

Addressing committee members, ward Councillor Simon Phipps warned that the modifications had not solved the problems.

"It will have no effect on the traffic flow where it really matters," he said. "The car park is used by many people for free parking to get into town."

He also regretted the loss of the venue. He said: "The members club has been a fixture in Halesowen for many years, used as a meeting place and more."

Bosses at the club, which was formerly known as the Halesowen Labour Club, were left stunned when the first application was lodged in October, stating that they had known nothing about the plans.

The applicants stated: "The existing club is no longer viable and despite recent investment is making a loss. The current owners are therefore looking to dispose of the site."

Chairing the committee, Councillor Kieran Casey, said: "It is a shame that the members club has got to the stage that it is in."

It was approved by a majority of the planning committee after a vote.

## Fight to save bus route to Merry Hill



Bryan Cotterill with residents Cissie Cox, Paul Kirton, Joyce Evans, Ruby Tristram, Lilly Owen and Mary Homer

RESIDENTS are angry that a bus service is to be scrapped over claims that not enough people are using it.

The 282 Diamond bus service runs from Merry Hill shopping centre to Gornal Wood via Dudley Wood.

Bosses from Transport for West Midlands argue the service can no longer be run due to commercial reasons. They say they have been subsidising it for years and now the number of people using it has

dropped below the minimum number. But the move has sparked an outcry from those who use the bus.

Councillor Bryan Cotterill, who represents the Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood ward, says the loss of the service will leave residents feeling isolated.

Angry residents seeking to save the route gathered outside of the children's centre in Woodland Avenue, Quarry Bank, earlier this week to protest at its removal.

Councillor Cotterill said: "It's

elderly people that are primarily affected. There is one lady who is gone 90 and her husband is in care. She relies on this bus to see him every day. To be told that instead you've got to get a taxi, that's very expensive when you are just on a pension. It is leaving people isolated."

A Transport for West Midlands spokesman said: "For those passengers who have limited mobility the Ring and Ride service may be a suitable alternative."

# Safety alert after chlorine leak from plating unit

CHLORINE gas was found leaking from a cylinder at a Black Country firm, sparking an alert for neighbours to stay indoors, keeping windows and doors shut.

The leak happened at Cradley Plating Company unit on Woods Lane, Cradley Heath on Saturday.

Neighbours were advised to stay at home and keep their windows and doors closed as investigations were carried out.

Haden Cross firefighters attended, including a special team. They found that there was one cylinder in 'a corroded state' which was leaking chlorine gas. That was close to three others in a similar state.

Firefighters were alerted to the leak at about 6.19pm on Saturday and remained there until 1.30am on Sunday, along with police officers, and carried out extensive tests to ensure the chemical leak had been contained.

Emergency services were called after a member of the public reported 'a bleached smell' in the air. No one was injured and the spokesman said much of the time was spent making the location safe.

Cradley Plating Company staff were also told by firefighters not to enter the building as investigations took place and experts were called.

A Cradley Heath and Old Hill councillor on Sandwell Council, Councillor Caroline White, said that it had been 'worrying' for residents.

In April 2009, 48 people were taken to hospital after a chlorine incident at the now demolished Coseley Baths.

# Football match attack is denied

A MAN has denied wounding another in an attack during a children's football match in Halesowen.

Nahad Yafai, of Parkside Road, Colley Gate, Halesowen, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court where he pleaded not guilty to a charge of wounding with intent.

The incident allegedly happened during an under-14s football game between Halesowen Town Colts and Halesowen Harriers, being held at Newfield Park, in Whittingham Road, Halesowen, on March 20 this year.

The 53-year-old defendant was granted conditional bail until his trial takes place.

A date has yet to be set for the trial.

# Disney On Ice's Frozen family fun

DISNEY On Ice are bringing a full-length ice dance version of the popular animated movie Frozen to Birmingham during half-term week. It will be at the Barclaycard Arena for 11 performances between Tuesday and Sunday, October 25 to 30, including matinees.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

## Free parking to boost shopping

FREE parking will be available on council-run car parks across Dudley borough on Saturdays in the run-up to Christmas.

Council bosses hope the offer will increase the amount of people heading into the borough's main shopping areas when charges are suspended on December 10, 17 and 24.

Dudley Council also said it intends to offer free parking on one late shopping night, though it is yet to decide which night.

Chiefs reckon it will boost trade across the borough.

## Star guests visit for festive reunion

TELEVISION presenters Suzi Perry and Adrian Chiles are due to attend the next performance by Red Lemon Electric Blues Band in their home town of Stourbridge.

The group reunited for sell-out 30th anniversary concerts last year. The band will appear in Stourbridge Town Hall again on December 16 with tickets priced £22. Suzi, whose father Tony managed the band, used to dance on stage with the group in the 1980s and Adrian, from Hagley, was a bass player in the soul band's early days. Call 0870 320 7000 for tickets.

## Join museum hunt for creepy critters

YOUNGSTERS are invited to go on a hunt for rats and spiders as part of a special event at the Black Country Living Museum.

The Creepy Critters event is from Saturday to October 30 at the museum on Tipton Road, Dudley. Fearless youngsters will be able to explore and learn about the pests that plagued the Black Country in the old days, and get hands on with some crafts.

See [www.bclm.co.uk/events/creepy-critters](http://www.bclm.co.uk/events/creepy-critters) for more information.

## Little Mix make a date for concert next year

TOP girl group Little Mix have announced an arena tour including a Birmingham gig in just over a year's time.

The group consisting of Perrie Edwards, Jessy Nelson, Leigh-Anne Pinnoch and Jade Thirlwall bring their Glory Days tour to the Genting Arena on November 18, 2017, for matinee and evening shows.

Tickets go on general sale tomorrow (Friday) from [www.theticketfactory.com](http://www.theticketfactory.com) or by calling 0844 3388 222.

## Campaigner's award

A CAMPAIGNER from Stourbridge has been recognised for his contribution to charity. Bryan Gould, 56, has been honoured at Muscular Dystrophy UK's annual President's Awards, where he was named campaigner of the year by the charity's president, BBC TV presenter Sue Barker.

# Big Four-O fireworks extravaganza at Himley

HIMLEY Bonfire and Fireworks is celebrating with The Big Four-O, an extra special pyrotechnical extravaganza to celebrate the 40th Dudley fireworks display on Saturday, November 5.

Gates will open at 4.30pm with the bonfire lit at 7.45 and the fireworks display at 8.30 at the event which will also feature a big funfair and seasonal refreshments.

Set to a soundtrack of party music, the fireworks show will be hosted by Heart fm and Dudley Council. Tickets cost £9 for adults, £4.50 for children (five to 15) and for senior citizens with under-5s admitted free.

A family ticket for two adults and two children costs £23 and there is a £3 parking fee. Card payments are not accepted on the night but advance tickets can be bought on (01384) 812812 or online via the Dudley Council website.

### Bus

A free bus service will be available from Dudley town centre, Coseley, Sedgley, Quarry Bank, Brierley Hill, Halesowen and Stourbridge. Full details on the council's website.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, Dudley's cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "Himley Hall and Park is host to one of the biggest firework shows in the country."

Thousands are anticipated for the event which attracts families from all over the Black Country, South Staffordshire and beyond.

# Bard's best bits at library

ENJOY some of the Bard's Best Bits when actors put on a performance of Romeo and Juliet at Wednesbury Library. Oddssocks Productions will perform a 90-minute comic adaptation of one of Shakespeare's best-known plays at the library, in Walsall Street, on Friday (October 28) at 3.30pm.

Billed as the 'Bard's Best Bits', the show aims to entertain family audiences and celebrate the 400th anniversary of England's greatest playwright. The Oddssocks West Midlands tour is part of the national Celebrating Shakespeare 2016 campaign. Run by the Society of Chief Librarians and its partners, the project aims to introduce children to Shakespeare in a fun way. The event is free but book on 0121 556 0351.

# Make-up artist wins fashion prize

A BLACK Country make-up artist was among the winners in the annual Midlands Fashion Awards.

Chelsea Moore, from Dudley, was named make-up artist of the year at the awards night held in Birmingham.

# Concern as no organs donated for a year

A CONSULTANT has said it is disappointing how few organ donations have taken place at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

For the first time in seven years, in the year up until March 31, 2016 there were no organ donations in Dudley.

Presenting these figures to the Trust's board, clinical lead for organ donation and intensive care consultant Dr Julian Sonksen said: "In terms of donors and patients transplanted as a result of organ treatment from our hospital, unfortunately for the first time in seven years there haven't been any made here."

Speaking following the meeting, Dr Sonksen added that while there were no donations in the

last financial year, since April five organs have been donated from two patients.

He said that the size of Russells Hall Hospital meant that the annual donation rate was typically in single figures.

He said: "Donations are rare at our a hospital of our size. On average we only see between one to four donations in a year." But there has been an increase in the number of people on the organ donation register in Dudley borough. At the end of the year March 31 2016 there was 72,357 people on the list compared with 57,135 by March 31 2012.

Dr Sonksen is optimistic after seeing an increase in the number of those on the organ donation register in the Dudley borough.

One of the issues concerns the number of staff trained in this particular field. According to Dr Sonksen there are currently only two who cover the Black Country, based at New Cross Hospital, although a third is also currently undergoing training.

"We are in talks to make sure that a specialist nurse has a presence on our site for at least part of the week," he said. Currently they don't have a named nurse on site for organ donations.

Previous steps taken by the Trust to try to increase organ donations, and raise awareness of those who have made that life-saving bequest, include 'The Gift of Life' sculpture unveiled at the hospital in 2014. The Trust is working with ethnic minority groups to raise awareness.

# £20m temporary staff bill at hospital trust

MORE than £20 million was spent on temporary staff by the health trust which runs Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital in just one year.

The outlay covered nurses, health professionals and administration workers who were brought in to the Dudley Group NHS Foundation on a short-term basis during 2015.

The figures range from January to December 2015 to December and were revealed after a Freedom of Information request.

Out of the £20.518m that was spent on the temporary staffing around 18 per cent of that was for agency nursing, with 0.5 per cent of that on unqualified nurses.

Just more than four per cent of the spend was on agency administration staff and 5.8 per cent on agency allied health professionals, who range from physiotherapists to occupational therapists and district nurses.

UKIP Councillor Paul Brothwood spoke of his disgust at the spend. He said: "It is totally unacceptable and alarming."

"The bottom line is we cannot afford this. If we look at the debts of the NHS then its been far too long that we have been selling off our public services. We need to keep the NHS going strong and take care of our front line services."

In June this year bosses said they were reviewing the positions of temporary staff, those on fixed-term contracts, and bank and agency workers.

### Safety

Dr Paul Harrison, acting chief executive of Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We are committed to ensuring all our patients receive the best possible care and so patient safety is always an absolute priority."

"We always try and cover vacant shifts first from our own staff bank before employing agency staff, but we make no apologies for making sure our services are safe."

"To make sure patients are safe and cared for by appropriately skilled staff at all times, we use agency staff to cover staff shortages."

"The main reason for agency spend is the high number of unfilled vacancies due to the national shortage of many health professionals including registered nurses and allied health professionals such as speech and language therapists and radiographers. Our use of agency staff will obviously reduce once we are able to fill these posts."

## School playground gets a makeover



Playtime for James Underhill and Maisie Sturgeon at Timbertree Academy in Cradley Heath

CHILDREN at a Black Country primary school are swinging with delight after a revamp which has seen their playground transformed.

Thanks to funding from the United Learning Trust, the outdoor play facilities at Timbertree Academy in Cradley Heath have been revamped. The school, which is already celebrating a 'Good' Ofsted rating, are delighted with the improvements.

Michelle Green, executive headteacher, said: "Our children, parents and staff all love the improvements made to the school building and to the play areas."

"It has transformed learning and play for the children."

"Everyone worked incredibly hard to maintain our Ofsted judgement of 'Good' in July. As a result, this has been a wonderful start to the new academic year."

The new equipment in the play-

ground includes an impressive wooden 'free flow', complete with climbing wall and monkey bars.

There is also a play section for the early years, to accommodate youngsters in the 'Timbertree Tots' and nursery classes.

The major refurbishment took place over the summer holidays.

The primary school which dates back to the 1970s, became part of the United Learning Trust in 2013.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



FOUR bearded Asian men were thrown off a flight from Manchester to Turkey after allegedly being disruptive and playing an audio track containing the repeated word "bomb." The key word here is "allegedly". Some Thomas Cook flight staff say it was some of the worst behaviour they had ever seen and upset some passengers. But the men, aged 18-23, only admit to being "a bit loud" and having "a laugh and a joke." And that's it – claim, counter-claim and accusations of racism chucked about. In the 21st century there should be not an ounce of doubt. How much would it cost to equip every airliner with CCTV? If police and prison officers wear body cameras, why not flight attendants? It's hardly rocket science to record the incident, transmit it to police at the arrival airport and have the magistrates waiting for when the "bit loud" passengers land. This way, gentlemen . . .

IN a matter of hours the internet can create a fad that would have taken months to organise in the old days. The latest is the scourge of "scary clowns," terrorising people all over Britain in the run-up to Halloween. Before that it was the ice-bucket challenge. Come to think of it, a bucketful of iced water on a chilly October evening might be the perfect way to deal with scary clowns.



IN their defence, at least the scary clowns are succeeding at being scary. This is in contrast to real clowns who repeatedly fail to be amusing. When did you last see a funny clown? How many nights at the circus are ruined when a succession of dazzlingly athletic and dangerous acts is suddenly interrupted by half-a-dozen linguistically-challenged and deeply unfunny old men with fake buckets of water and an exploding car?

REPORTS claim that the loss of two black contestants from Strictly has "prompted accusations of racism on social media," In this age of brainless instant communication with no qualifications required and anonymous Tweeters, we should try replacing the words "on social media" with "by a bunch of nobodies."

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# 'Ruthless' conwoman locked up for fraud

**A GRANDMOTHER who fleeced more than £35,000 from a 'vulnerable' pensioner is starting a 27-month prison sentence.**

Julia Brennan was also part of a £17,300 fraud on the same victim carried out with her younger brother Timothy Hale, a 56-year-old builder. He was jailed at an earlier hearing, while she was remanded on bail for pre-sentence and psychiatric reports.

Hale targeted Ken Morris while managing the construction of a £30,000 garage at the home of the 71-year-old, who is hard of hearing and has failing sight.

The victim had a long standing resentment over his failure to get his money back after spending £19,500 on a Mercedes that turned out to be stolen. He was awarded compensation and even had a charge on the home of the seller but had not received a penny 10 years later.

He explained the situation to Hale who – realising that his unmarried client was wealthy – offered to get him a solicitor for £17,300 back in 2012, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mr Morris told the jury during a trial of the pair that he was given the impression that Brennan – who had no legal training at all – was the 'lawyer'. The victim gave her a fee in two instalments while her co-defendant found a legitimate solicitor to do the work at a cost of £3,925.

Hale pocketed the difference with a further £3,000 collected in 2014 by pre-

By John Scott

tending it was needed to evict the man who sold the Mercedes. He had already moved.

Brennan, 58, took over £35,000 more cash from Mr Morris in a six-month period, as a 'loan' that would be repaid from damages she expected for a dog bite. He did not get a penny.

Both defendants were found guilty in the £17,300 'solicitor' fraud, while Brennan was further convicted in relation to the 'loan' deception. Hale was separately found guilty of the £3,000 'eviction' swindle. All charges had been denied.

Recorder John Edwards when sentencing Brennan, from Cockshed Lane, Halesowen, who had 27 previous convictions involving 60 separate offences, told her: "Both you and your brother embarked on a ruthless exploitation of Mr Morris."

Hale, of Farm Road, Rowley Regis, was jailed for 30 months at the earlier hearing.

## Zoo wildcat Bart dies at 22



Bart, the 22-year-old cat, was popular at Dudley Zoo

DUDLEY Zoo's oldest cat – 22-year-old Bart – has died.

The Geoffroy's Cat, the oldest one of his species in Europe, was put to sleep by keepers following consultation with the zoo's veterinary team.

The decision was made after the wildcat's health took a turn for the worse.

Bosses at Dudley Zoo said the captive wildcat, native to South America, had Dudley Zoo as his home since the late 1990s.

They said that Bart, who had outlived the typical life expectancy for his species in the wild, would be sadly missed.

Curator Richard Brown, said: "Bart had surpassed the life expectancy of a captive wild cat by more than two years and he was even the oldest one of his species in Europe. But he was showing his old age, so the decision was the kindest thing for him."

"He's been here for 17 years, so he'll be missed. He was quite a character."

Geoffroy's cats are the size of a domestic cat and are found in the southern and central regions of South America. The life expectancy of the species in the wild is approximately 18 years.

## Schemes helping elderly face axe

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council has pulled the plug on funding for 16 supported living schemes across the borough – saving a total of £263,000.

The cost-cutting plans mean hundreds of elderly residents will now have to fork out for the service.

This is the latest in a swathe of cost-saving measures by the borough council, which bosses say faces unprecedented austerity following Government funding cuts. But opposition councillors have criticised the measures for targeting front line services and the wrong areas.

The supported living scheme helps elderly people to live at home independently and funds a scheme manager to assist them. Among the schemes affected are those run by housing provider Stonewater, which has four housing schemes in the borough. Dudley Council will save £53,000 by making cuts to those four schemes alone, affecting 167 residents. Residents could face paying £9.38 per week.

Adult social care boss Councillor Qada Zada said: "This is very much in line with charging for support offered by supported living schemes nationally."

Conservative leader Councillor Patrick Harley said they should look at reducing the £11 million bill for Information Technology and Human Resources.

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## Activity base for over-50s closing down

A POPULAR activity centre for the elderly will close its doors at the end of December due to lack of funding.

The Age UK Springboard activity centre based at The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, had £300,000 of its funding cut by Dudley Council in July. Now up to 700 clients will lose access to a variety of activities including exercise classes, ballroom dancing, arts and crafts and photography.

Devastated staff say that they are 'concerned' for their huge client base who visit and benefit from the project's activities each week.

Alison Pugh, acting Springboard co-ordinator, said: "It is with great sadness that Springboard, a much-loved service has to close.

"Springboard has made a huge positive impact on people's health and wellbeing in Dudley borough in its various forms since 2003. The time, commitment and dedication involved to build this success story should not be underestimated and sadly the closure will affect a lot of older people resident in the borough."

The centre had received funding from The National Lottery for the past six years but saw its latest application refused earlier this year.

The centre has 53 staff and more than 300 volunteers who run various health and wellbeing activities for those aged 50 to 100.

## First World War story of Brummegem Pals

WRITTEN by and featuring entertainers Malcolm Stent and Don Maclean, Brummegem Pals is a play with music at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Tuesday (7.30) and Wednesday (2.30). The moving tale follows two teenagers from training to the Battle of the Somme. See grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

# Council's £800-a-day temp officer has been replaced

## Walkers put best foot forward for charity



Don Goodman, MC Dicky Dodd and Steve Bull with the Promise Dreams walkers as they set off from Himley Park

FROM super heroes to aliens – hundreds of walkers dressed up as they put their best foot forward to raise tens of thousands of pounds for charity in a walk across the Black Country.

Around 800 people braved changeable weather to walk from Himley to Wolverhampton in aid of Promise Dreams.

Rain poured on Sunday morning as organisers gathered at Himley Hall

to set up for the nine-mile Promise Dreams walk but the sun shone just before walkers set off for Wolverhampton Racecourse.

Many of those gathered at the start line said they had been helped by the charity or knew what a positive difference it could make to seriously ill children.

Former Wolves stars Don Goodman and Steve Bull have been long-standing

patrons for Promise Dreams and saw the walkers off. Don said: "It's the most amazing charity in the world. I do anything to help these fundraisers."

The charity's co-founder Suresh Bawa, 50, said he hoped over £20,000 would be donated from the event. This week he, his son Arran and three others are climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in aid of Promise Dreams, having already collected £50,000.

AN £800-a-day temporary officer at Dudley Council is leaving her post after just over 18 months in the job.

Merlin Joseph's appointment in the council's children's services department last year sparked controversy with opposition councillors questioning her high salary in a temporary role.

Now, after more 18 months in the job, she is set to be replaced by a permanent appointment. Lambeth Council's interim assistant director for children's services Sue Butcher is taking over the role. Newcomer Ms Butcher is being paid £90,000 a year, around £80,000 less per year than Ms Joseph's agency salary.

Ms Joseph started in the post in April 2015 and council chiefs said they have been looking to appoint a permanent replacement since then.

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services, said: "These have been some of the most difficult times for this authority and we are extremely lucky to have had Merlin Joseph's expertise in this field to help us through those challenges. Children's services are in a much better place thanks to her hard work."

### Pleased

"We have always made it clear that we would be looking for someone to take up that vital permanent role as soon as reasonably possible and we are pleased to have appointed Sue Butcher. Sue will be working closely with the leadership team at the council to make sure we continue the positive direction highlighted in the post-Ofsted report from the Government-appointed national commissioner, which said the authority was now 'focused, ambitious and creative'."

A report in July found that progress was being made in Dudley's children's services department.

## More than £4k bill for shop sale fraudster

A SHOPKEEPER who conned a potential buyer of his business out of thousands of pounds has been ordered to carry out unpaid work and pay all of the money back.

Santok Singh Bahia, 53, tricked the money out of the person wanting to buy his shop GK News in Nimmings Road, Halesowen.

Wolverhampton magistrates heard how Bahia advertised the shop for sale in February 2014. A prospective buyer responded to the advert and a sale was agreed between them. Bahia, of Dog Kennel Lane, Oldbury, took a deposit of £2,000 but failed to progress the sale and refused to return the deposit. He was found guilty of theft, fraud by false representation and of acquiring, using or possessing criminal property. He was ordered to carry out 180 hours unpaid work, has to repay the victim £2,000, costs of £2,000 and £60 victim surcharge.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Tax claims on health company sicken me

THE chances are that when you visit your GP, you do not give too much thought to the nationality of the company which runs the practice, still less its tax affairs. As long as the doctor makes you better, the admin side is not your concern.

Even so, it must surely come as a bit of a surprise to the thousands of Black Country patients who this week discovered thanks to some excellent investigative reporting from the BBC's health correspondent Michele Paduano that Malling Health, which runs surgeries in Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton, is owned by a parent company in the Bahamas.

Even more controversial is the revelation that the NHS contractor has been using taxpayers' money to pay 20 per cent interest on a loan from the said parent company in the sun-kissed tax haven. As a general rule, I think people are too keen to get on their high-horse about tax avoidance. Most of us pay as little tax as possible, given the chance. It is why we take out Isas and ask our financial advisors about 'tax efficient' investments.

However, at a time when we are constantly told how NHS resources are under pressure, can it really be right that doctors' surgeries are sending NHS money abroad? If they really need to borrow money, which I suspect they don't, their high-street bank will loan it at a fifth of that rate. GP services are supposed to be about caring for patients, not playing city whizzkids.

□ □ □

WITHIN hours of claiming the weak pound was forcing it to increase the price of Marmite, the Unilever conglomerate backed down under pressure from Tesco.

Given that Marmite is made from a yeast by-product of breweries in Staffordshire, it is hard to see how currency fluctuations had much of an impact. The words 'opportunistic' and 'proffiteering' spring to mind.

The big supermarkets often get a bad press. But Tesco deserves praise for standing up for the consumer.

□ □ □

FOR what it's worth – and I concede that is probably not a great deal – here is my prediction of what will happen when Staffordshire Council introduces its pay-as-you-go charging regime for people using the public tips next month.

Within a few weeks, shifty-looking characters will start sticking photocopied leaflets through people's door, offering a doorstep waste-disposal at half the price quoted by Staffordshire Council. People will use this service rather than the official one, and then one night the unofficial waste disposal operators will drive their pick-up to a local beauty spot and empty its contents. The council will then have to clean the site up, at the taxpayers' expense. And everyone's a loser, except the shysters with the pick-up truck.



White Out Staffordshire Moorlands by Margaret Jarvis



The Iron Bridge by Anthony Clemson



Carol Widenbar with her Rhinoceros sculpture

# It's a change of art as group hits 100

Exhibition is back by popular demand and for the first time with a theme – metamorphosis, as reporter CARL JACKSON explains

**DOZENS of artworks have gone on display in Wolverhampton including an exhibition dedicated to change.**

Wolverhampton Society of Artists has held one show once every 12 months throughout its 100 years but it is returning to the art gallery on Lichfield Street for the second time in 2016 by popular demand, such was the success of the first display.

Seventy pieces are on show and will be available to view until November 13.

As well as the usual array of different works from members, the group has taken the opportunity to hold its first themed exhibition which is inspired by metamorphosis – the process of dramatic change or transformation.

The idea was the brainchild of the society's resident professional snapper Chris Manley.

## Digital

Society member Carol Widenbar said: "We have one section on metamorphosis alongside the usual collection of works from members. It is a new idea this year to have a theme.

"There are one or two digital artworks for the first time. Although we are an old and established society we are trying to get ourselves into the 21st century.

"So our professional photographer Chris had the idea that because this was the first time we were embracing the digital form and the first time we were having a theme, that it should be around the reflection of change which or course is metamorphosis. The digital artworks are all original which have involved a computer in some way. We have not accepted photographs as that exists as another form."

The works were all submitted anonymously. Among those to look out for includes Ms Widenbar's ceramic rhinoceros which she said was an 'experiment that turned out to be quite cute'.

Another work sure to catch the eye is Sarah Stokes' 'Through the Looking Glass' which uses oil on glass to depict an eye. Visitors should also look out for Julia Timmins' Guineafowl wood carving.



Plenty to see at Wolverhampton Society of Artists exhibition and, inset, The Third Stage: Wren's Nest Escarpment by Margaret Jarvis



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# Arranging deckchairs while iceberg looms

PUTIN and Assad are escalating the situation in Syria to unbelievable levels of inhumanity and atrocity, indiscriminate (or cruelly calculated) aerial bombings of innocent civilians and courageous aid-workers. Why do they think they can do this with impunity?

Firstly, they have managed to sideline the Americans almost completely out of the equation. Secondly, they can thank Mr Farage and the Brexitis by weakening both Britain and Europe, possibly even sowing the seeds of an eventual breakdown of European unity. This would be disastrous for our

stability, security and peace but advantageous for an expansionist Russia. Cracks in solidarity amongst the European allies will encourage Putin and Assad to continue their heartless course and make the Americans even more reluctant to involve themselves, possibly even causing them to question the relevance of maintaining the 'special relationship' with Britain which they have seen as a bridge into Europe.

One assassination in Sarajevo in 1914 spread chaos across the whole of Europe and, if we are not careful, the Syria crisis could also spread far

beyond its borders. I have listened patiently to the contradictory statements of the politicians, the pundits and economists as they pontificate about trade agreements, immigration quotas, tariffs, but none of them seem to address the dangerous political instability which is developing.

It seems to me that the 'Remain' and 'Leave' factions are so preoccupied with squabbling about the deckchairs that they fail to see the massive iceberg which is drifting towards the ship.

**ROBERT PERRY**  
Stourbridge

## Poetic way of saying thank you

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Serving delicious meals in bed, on a tray.  
I'd give a large bouquet to every one,  
But there are so many angels it can't be done.  
So I have to say God bless you all,  
And this will be echoed, by one and all.

**MRS VAL GROSVENOR**  
(aged 83)  
Stourbridge

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

### EMAIL

dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Town's museum move makes no sense

SO, it's really going to happen. Dudley Museum and Art Gallery is to close just before Christmas and staff will be sacked. Yet the case for its closure seems to have been based on the premise that it is 'inaccessible' for wheelchair users. It isn't.

There was also the claim that 'it makes absolute sense to move its contents to the archives building to benefit from tourism at Castle Hill'. But this building was designed to accommodate ever-increasing amounts of documents and records. And it will need extensive and expensive alterations in order to make space for exhibits that have been so lovingly created in the available space at the present site.

That present site is the only attraction that the town centre has to offer the inquisitive visitor.

Unlike the archives centre, there are plenty of parking spaces, shops and cafes within easy reach. Now the proponents of the move are having to scart around for alternative uses for the building in order to prevent it dropping to pieces.

Absolute sense? Only to some.

**ROBERT ASTON**  
Coseley

## Obscene pay-outs must stop

IT is not often I feel the need to read an article twice let alone three times, but in the case of the pay-off to chief executive to the West Midlands Police Authority I found myself in the realms of disbelief.

To quote some figures, after seven years in a post with a salary of £109,300, and an Audi company car she left receiving a £74,600 loss of office payment plus £278,900 paid into her pension pot because of a scheme where public sector employers must make the contributions they would have made up to the employee's normal retirement date, even if they leave their job.

These obscene benefits being paid out of tax payers' money surely must stop, sooner or later there will not be enough money coming in to pay them.

Interesting that on the same page was a feature on axing lollipop wardens to save £260,000 a year.

**RON GWILLIAMS**  
Brierley Hill

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# Governors say school can't afford to fund lollipop patrols

**GOVERNORS** of a primary school located on a busy road have spoken of their concern that cash-strapped Dudley Council is planning to axe lollipop patrols.

Bosses at Thorns Primary in Quarry Bank say children are 'at great risk' from the busy Thorns Road.

Fifty speeding drivers were reported and two vehicles were seized in a two hour police crackdown on the road and nearby Dudley Road earlier this month.

## Homes being sought for sibling groups

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to encourage more families to adopt sibling groups in the Black Country.

Adoption in the Black Country and Adoption Focus wants to highlight the need for adopters to come forward for older children and siblings.

As part of its national adoption week campaign, it is hosting an event at the Novotel in Wolverhampton on Monday at 6pm.

National figures from the British Association for Adoption and Fostering show nearly half of children waiting for a family are part of a sibling group, due to a shortage of people adopting brothers and sisters.

Spokesman Ian Groom said: "Children who need to be adopted have usually had a hard start in life and it is important to experience the stability and support being with their brothers and sisters can bring."

To find out more see [www.adoptionblackcountry.co.uk](http://www.adoptionblackcountry.co.uk) or call 0800 073 0597.

As part of the authority's proposal, schools would have to pay for the crossing patrols. But Thorns Primary School governors say they cannot afford to do this without taking funds away from elsewhere in their budget.

The speed limit of Thorns Road was reduced from 40 to 30mph in 2014 in a bid to boost safety.

Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said the safety of children was of 'paramount importance'. But the free crossing service for schools is being reviewed due to ongoing funding cuts by central government, particularly as there was no legal requirement for the council to fund such patrols.

### Statement

A statement released from the governing body of the school stated: "Governors of Thorns Primary School wish to raise our concerns regarding the future of school crossing patrols in Dudley."

"Governors understand that the council is experiencing extreme budget difficulties but feels the council is not recognising that schools are already in a similar financial position. Such financial off-loading by the council will inevitably impact on the employment of teaching staff and academic standards - schools have not the budget to pay for crossing patrols."

## Head over heels for Kristian at school



Gymnast Kristian Thomas with Dormston pupils and teacher Lisa Brayshaw

YOUNGSTERS at a Sedgley school enjoyed a special assembly from Olympic gymnast Kristian Thomas.

The London 2012 bronze medallist gave an hour-long talk to Year 7 pupils at Dormston School and performed a series of somersaults for them.

Teachers at the school said the assembly was inspiring for pupils who all had their diaries signed by the 27-year-old, who hails from Wolverhampton and trains in Halesowen.

He gave a talk about his own journey to becoming a decorated gymnast who competed at London and Rio.

Lisa Brayshaw, PE Teacher and Year 7 co-ordinator at the school, said: "Kristian is a great speaker, he inspired the year seven pupils. The year 7s worked hard to prepare and ask good questions."

The gymnast signed around 253 diary planners after the assembly.

Kristian was a pupil at St Edmund's School in Compton. He trains at Earls High School in Halesowen and has won more than a dozen medals over his gymnastic career. This includes a bronze medal at the London 2012 Olympic Games, during the final of the men's artistic gymnastics all round team competition. He also won gold in the 2012 European Championships event.

Kristian, who recently began working on a degree at the University of Wolverhampton, said: "I spoke to the students about my journey and getting to the Olympics. My message was about working hard and being dedicated."

## Burglar traced by jumper left at crime scene

A ROMANIAN who burgled an elderly couple's bungalow while they slept claimed he was talked into it.

Adrian Lacatus and at least one other broke into the pensioners' Stourbridge home in the early hours of February 10. They stole items including an iPhone, a Samsung mobile and a sat-nav before fleeing after being disturbed by the husband.

The 24-year-old admitted the burglary after a jumper he left at the bungalow was recovered by police who were able to match it with his DNA.

Mr Jamie Scott, defending, said: "My client states the offence was his friend's idea. Mr Lacatus was drunk at the time and, while that should be quite properly treated as an aggravating feature, the fact he was drunk supported his suggestion that his friend perhaps took advantage of him."

"It is supported further by the fact that the goods taken were retained entirely by my client's friend, who very shortly afterwards returned to Romania. My client drew absolutely no benefit from this offence at all."

The court heard the couple, aged 70 and 69, had been asleep when the burglars entered through a window at around 2am. They said they had suffered physical and mental distress.

Lacatus, of High Street, Lye, was jailed for 28 months at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

## Model railway clubs stage annual display

CRADLEY Heath Model Railway Club's annual exhibition is on Saturday. There will be 17 layouts on show.

Among societies taking part are the West Midlands 7mm Narrow Gauge Association, 009 Society & The West Midlands Narrow Gauge Group and Tal-y-llyn Railway Preservation Society. It is at Cradley Heath Community Centre, Reddal Hill Road, on Saturday from 10am to 5pm. Entry is £4 for adults and £3 for children (4-14).

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# Don't live in fear, says chief after stabbings

A POLICE chief in Dudley has urged residents not to live in fear as a killer went on the run after the borough was hit by three stabbings in just eight days.

A 24-year-old man died from stab wounds after being knifed on Brierley Hill High Street on Saturday.

Yesterday (Wednesday) police named him as Mansoor Mahmood and revealed that they believe he knew his killer.

A murder probe has been launched with police still trying to trace the attacker as The Chronicle went to Press.

Superintendent Phil Dolby told residents: "My message to the public is that I don't want anybody to be in fear of living in the great borough of Dudley."

**Safe**

"It is a genuine pleasure to work in Dudley and if people feel afraid then it's our job to help make them feel safe."

Mr Mahmood was attacked at around 4.45pm on Saturday. He later died in hospital.

Detective Inspector Harry Harrison, of West Midlands Police homicide team, said: "We are still piecing together the circumstances of Mr Mahmood's death but strongly suspect this was a targeted attack and the two people involved may have known each other."

"We have spoken to some witnesses already but I'm sure there are many more people who saw what happened,



A police tent erected at the scene of the fatal stabbing in Brierley Hill's High Street or saw the offender running away. If you saw anything – regardless of how insignificant you think it may be – and have not yet spoken to us, I would ask you to give me a call."

Dudley South MP Mike Wood called for the community to work together to help track down the culprits.

"This is absolutely shocking – particularly with it being in broad daylight and in the town centre," he said.

Ahmad Sherzad was serving customers when the bleeding victim stumbled into the Dixi Chicken diner on High Street.

Mr Sherzad, 20, said: "He came up

to counter and said 'help me' before fainting on to the floor. I called an ambulance."

Police sealed off the High Street and a nearby wooded area as forensics experts looked for evidence. A police tent was erected at the scene of the crime.

The attack was the third stabbing in eight days in Dudley borough. A 22-year-old man was stabbed in Lower Gornal on October 8 and an 18-year-old man was stabbed in Sedgley the following day. Both victims are recovering.

Call police on 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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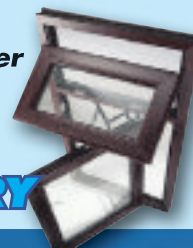
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## Canal talk proves a cut above

Amblecote History

GEOFF Longmore introduced speaker Chris Dyche to the September 12 meeting to give a talk on 'A View of our Local Canal'.

Chris is a local man with a passion for canals and director of both the Stourbridge Navigation Trust and the Staffs & Worcs Canal Society.

To set the scene his talk would focus specifically on the Stourbridge arm of the canal - often referred to as the "Crystal Canal", and the Bonded Warehouse itself.

Chris took to the stage, armed with cartridges full of photographic slides which projected really well onto the pull down screen in the Lehrs Theatre. The Stourbridge arm is the one-and-a-half mile length which starts at Wordsley Junction and now terminates at the Bonded Warehouse. This stretch has much local and national history being engineered by Thomas Dadford and opened in 1779 linking to the Staffs & Worcs Canal, which formed the main line through to Brierley Hill.

Chris went through the various stages, history, obstacles and amusing stories associated with the restoration of the Stourbridge arm and the Bonded Warehouse from desolation, including the extraction of a Ford Popular and a Morris 1000 out of "the cut" to what it is today - a vibrant and well used community asset.

He displayed many photographs showing the state of repair of the canal with before and after shots.

Geoff Longmore gave thanks for an inspiring talk.

# Talk is cheep about birds of Wyre Forest

Grange E Guild

CHRIS Holton presided over the October meeting held at Grange Court, Stourbridge. She gave a warm welcome to all members and three guests.

Treasurer Jill Attwood gave an up to date financial report and secretary Jean Williams said she had received the new programme from the Rose Theatre, Kidderminster and was prepared to book tickets for one of the shows. Several proposals were put forward for outings in 2017.

Marlene O'Hanlon reported the shoebox appeal was now closed and thanked everyone for their donations. She had arranged the next meeting of the lunch club at the Swallows Nest, Romsley on October 18.

Speaker John Robinson gave a very interesting talk with a slide show about flowers and birds of the Wyre Forest. Chris gave a vote of thanks.

Refreshments were served and the raffle drawn with three ladies winning prizes.

At the November 1 meeting, the speaker will be a representative from Waitrose in Stourbridge and will be a cheese and wine evening.

## Healthy turnout for annual flower show

Clent Gardening Club

worthy show to mark its 70th anniversary.

THE first Saturday in September saw the Annual Flower Show in Clent Parish Hall held jointly with Clent WI.

A healthy turnout of parishioners were treated to a splendid array of plants, vegetables and floral displays as Gardening Club members and others showed off their prowess.

Not to be outdone there was also a healthy contribution of produce cakes and preserves from the WI members and a variety of local paintings and crafts were also on display.

Some splendid children's exhibits and some excellent photography also featured.

This year, for the first time, a marquee was erected at the rear of the village hall and the tombola and tea/cake stall enjoyed a roaring trade - a

The September meeting welcomed Nigel Hopes form Stourbridge for a talk on a year at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. He gave a brief history of the gardens and used photographs to give a behind the scenes insight.

Nigel took a number of questions from the audience then drew the raffle.

Nigel's wife Samantha will give a talk in October on Hellebores grown at Ashwoods Nursery.

Meetings are held at Clent Village Hall on the fourth Friday each month. Call chairman Martin Grange on 01562 883009/07917 184762 or visit <https://clentgardeningclub.wordpress.com>

## Thornton's talk on chocolate

THE Ladies met on October 6 at The Royal British Legion, Kingswinford. Chairman, Sheila Evans welcomed everyone and accepted apologies.

Pam Ingman, secretary, read the minutes from the September meeting and all business matters were approved and signed.

Sheila announced the Christmas luncheon would be at The Bell, Kingswinford, on December 8 and the Christmas party on De-

Kingswinford Ladies Social Circle

cember 1. The trip to Trentham will be on November 10.

Speaker was Mr Alan Thornton with a talk and film entitled "The Bournville Story".

Iris Hemfrey gave the vote of thanks and two ladies won raffle prizes. The next meeting will be on November 3 at 7.45pm.

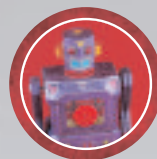
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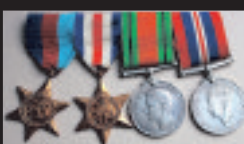
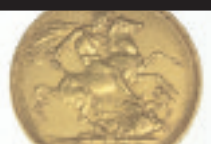
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Val is celebrating a milestone as carer



Val Gillies is celebrating after completing a milestone of 1,000 hours of care for the elderly in Dudley borough

A CARER in Dudley is celebrating after completing a milestone of providing a thousand hours of care.

Val Gillies, aged 58, who works for Home Instead Senior Care, visits elderly clients regularly and helps them with their shopping, cooking, and other daily routines.

Her care assists them to remain living independently in their own homes and she also provides them with companionship.

Val has been working at Home Instead for about a year and has worked in the care sector for more than 20 years.

She said: "I really enjoy getting to know my clients. I love taking them out for a cup of tea at the local café or for a stroll in the park."

"The best part of my job is the diverse range of people I get to meet."

"There is so much more to the job than personal care and I am privileged to spend my time with truly amazing people, listening to their stories, really getting to know them, and regularly having a laugh and sometimes even shedding a tear."

# Council bill for pothole damage is shrinking

DUDLEY Council paid out just over £3,000 in 12 months as a result of pothole damage to vehicles.

The authority received 66 claims in 2015-16 and was forced to shell out £3,170 in compensation – the lowest figure in the Black Country and Staffordshire.

It was ranked 105th of 152 councils across the country, according to figures released by the RAC Foundation.

The council's 2015-16 compensation payout was well down on the previous year's of £12,390.

Walsall received 61 claims and paid out £4,891; Sandwell 107 claims, paying out £10,862; and Wolverhampton 67 claims with a total paid out of £7,066.

## Fund

Staffordshire County Council was ranked the seventh worst council across the country – shelling out £34,628 after receiving 817 claims.

Dudley's environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills, said the authority had carried out work in the past year after receiving a £9

By David Cosgrove

million pot of cash from the Government's Challenge Fund.

She said: "We got the funding and tried to do as much as possible to fill in potholes and are still doing so. I'm delighted that the hard work of those who put in the bid has been rewarded."

This year the Black Country and Staffordshire will get £1.5m to fill potholes.

Analysis by the RAC Foundation found the average value of a claim was £432, though the average value of a successful claim was lower at £306.

The only authority in Great Britain to receive no claims for vehicle damage caused by potholes in 2015/16 was the Isles of Scilly.

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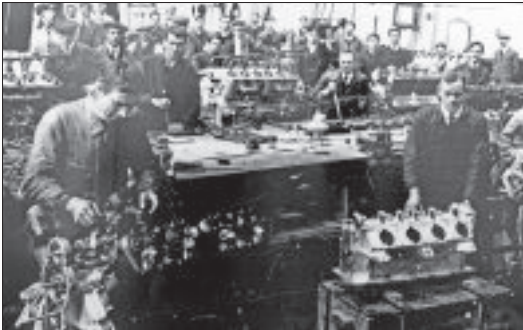
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Worker at Sunbeam Motor Car Company Blakenhall 1913



Hobson workers producing aircraft carburetors during WW1 at Accuracy Works



A Bordie helmet from WW2 made by Joseph Sankey and Sons



Guy Motors worker Hilda Durman checking parts at the factory during WW2

# Keep calm and carry on working in war

**THEY** were buzzing hives of activity during conflicts and now a new exhibition is to pay tribute to the role played by Black Country factories in the war effort.

The Work in Wartime exhibition at Bilston Craft Gallery highlights the scale and importance of factories in Wolverhampton and Bilston during the First and Second World Wars.

The exhibition features dozens of archive images from Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies and also original items, including Villiers engines, a motorcycle and bicycle used by the British Cyclist Corps during the First World War and a very rare Sunbeam military dispatch rider's motorcycle on loan from the Black Country Living Museum.

Also on show are objects, documents and photographs from factories including Boulton Paul, Guy Motors, Goodyear and Sankey.

## MEMORY LANE

Report by Jessica Labhart

Councillor John Reynolds, cabinet member for city economy, said: "This is a fascinating look at the vital role so many factories and workers from the city made as part of the war effort."

As well as illustrating the range of factories involved in supplying British and other armed forces, the display aims to highlight social changes brought about by war – including many more women joining the workforce.

### Modified

Boulton Paul was an aircraft manufacturer that began in 1914 in Norwich and moved to Wolverhampton. It lasted until 1961. The company mainly built and modified aircraft for other manufacturers but had a few notable designs of its own, such as the Defiant.

Guy Motors was a Wolverhampton-based vehicle manufacturer that

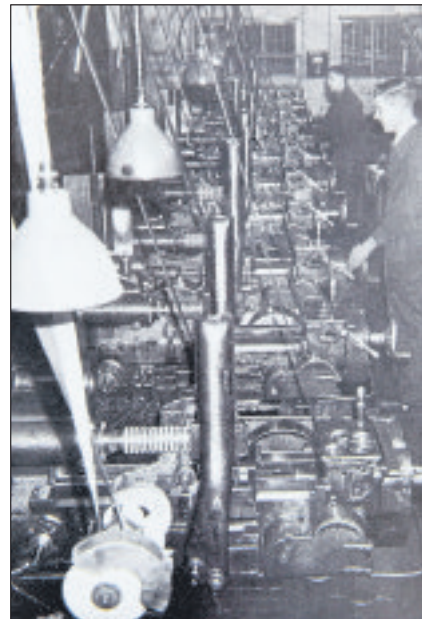
produced cars, lorries, buses and trolleybuses.

As early as 1923 Guy Motors was working on military vehicles, and by 1928 the company was making a six-wheeled armoured car for the Indian Government. In the late 1930s Guy's was heavily involved in the production of lorries and gun tractors for the British Army. Guy armoured cars were considered of such quality that they were used for the protection of the Royal Family and Winston Churchill.

The Goodyear Tyre & Rubber Company arrived in Wolverhampton in 1927. By the end of 1940 the company was Britain's second largest producer of aircraft tyres.

Joseph Sankey & Sons were a Bilston-based firm that produced steel helmets at their Albert Works in World War One, helping to save many lives. Sankeys no longer exists in Bilston. The Morrisons superstore now stands on part of the old site.

The free display at the gallery, on Mount Pleasant, is open until November 13.



A workshop at Villiers in WW2. The man is Bill Bough who worked there all his life

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NEARLY 400 jobs will be cut across Ed's Easy Diner restaurants after the brand was bought out by an arm of the food empire run by Black Country 'chicken king' Ranjit Boparan.

Giraffe Concepts, which is owned by Boparan Restaurant Holdings, will close about half of the Ed's Easy Diner locations across the UK and slash 379 jobs as part of a pre-packaged administration sale. But the chain's branches in Birmingham and the Black Country are not included in the cuts.

The American diner-themed chain has been struggling. A total of 26 of the existing 59 restaurants have closed with immediate effect, including one in Redditch.

The 33 that are continuing to operate include one at Intu Merry Hill and four in Birmingham, including the Bull Ring branches. Rob Croxson, partner at administrator KPMG, said: "Our immediate priority will be to liaise with those employees who have been affected by redundancy."

## Creepy creatures and spooky fun at zoo



**Presenter Langan Turner dares to enter the haunted cottage**

They can dress up in spooky costumes to watch Dippy's Halloween Show and participate in ghoulish games. There will also be some close encounters with a variety of creepy critters including snakes, spiders and cockroaches.

There's the chance to take part in a Halloween Hunt around the zoo's allegedly haunted site and to enter the Haunted Cottage.

The Hocus Pocus evenings are taking place on Thursday and Friday, October 27 and 28. Tickets are limited and are priced £9 with under 3s free.

Meanwhile, adults can get into the Halloween spirit from 8pm on Friday and Saturday, October 28 and 29 during a Paranormal Evening in the heart of the 11th century castle, which will feature investigations, vigils, experiments and tours. Tickets for this over 18s-only event are priced at £30.

To book for all Halloween events visit [dudleyzoo.org.uk](http://dudleyzoo.org.uk) or call (01384) 215313.

# Bhangra night for Dancing Grannies

THE Black Country's Dancing Grannies are adding a dash of Asian spice to their world-famous routine.

The Grannies, also known as comedy group the Fizzogs, will take part in a flash mob alongside modern Bhangra dance troupe Eclectic Dancers in Birmingham on October 29. The location is being kept secret until 24 hours before the event so they can spring a surprise on unsuspecting members of the public.

The Grannies – Sue Hawkins, Deb Nicholls and Jacky Fellows – will join the Birmingham-based Bhangra group and invite onlookers to take part.

The Fizzogs have gained widespread acclaim for their Grannies dance routine and attracted more than 60 million views on social media sites around the globe. They recently took the Edinburgh Fringe Festival by storm.

They will be performing their 'Black Country Fairy Tale, 'Ay It' at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on October 27.

# Hospice staff and leadership win praise in latest inspection

**THE Mary Stevens Hospice** in Stourbridge has been praised following its latest inspection by the Care Quality Commission.

The hospice has been rated 'Good' across all areas in the Commission (CQC) report published on October 1.

It comes as the hospice on Hagley Road prepares for a £3 million redevelopment.

Stevan Jackson, chief executive officer of the Mary Stevens Hospice Group, said: "The excellent report reflects superbly well on every person who helps us to provide the very best

palliative and end-of-life care. It gives me a great deal of pride to note that the CQC did not single out a single area where the team could perform better. Nevertheless, the trustees – led so ably by our chairman, John Woodall – and the senior leadership team are determined to strive harder to provide even better care for many more people in Dudley metropolitan borough in the future.”

Following the CQC inspection on May 10 and 11, the hospice was found to be safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led.

The 20-page report wrote in-depth about the work of the hospice, the ca-

pability of the staff and the experience of patients and visitors, with special praise reserved for the management systems and processes in place across the organisation.

The report states: "People told us staff were very caring, kind and receptive to their needs. People's independence was encouraged and their privacy and dignity protected. Staff worked hard to provide lasting and memorable experiences for people and their family members so that they experienced compassionate care. Leadership was strong and consistently looked at ways to promote the provision of palliative and end of life care."



**Stevan Jackson – proud**

## Artful Twist to a Dickens tale

A HIP HOP and contemporary dance group from London are bringing their reimagined version of *Oliver Twist* to Birmingham with Fagin's Twist.

Staged tonight (Thursday) and tomorrow night at The Patrick Centre inside Birmingham Hippodrome, the production by Avant Garde Dance Theatre looks at the youth of Dickens' famous character Fagin and what turned him into a thief.

It also features such characters as Oliver, Nancy, the Artful Dodger and Bill Sikes.

Fagin's Twist, which draws parallels between Victorian society and today, is performed at 7.45 each evening.

Tickets are £12 and can be booked on 0844 338 5000 or from [birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com) website

autumn

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# Kitchen time-savers will have you cooking on gas

With viewing figures constantly on the rise it is obvious that The Great British Bake Off series is cooking on gas. It certainly has had a lot of publicity just lately, with all the comings and goings.

It has become a regular topic of conversation and inspires many people to get back into the kitchen and rustle up something special in the safe knowledge that the only person tasting and judging your attempts will be you or your family.

Of course so many viewers are no doubt working mums who don't have a lot of time or energy when they arrive back from work and then have to think about feeding hungry mouths.

Do not despair, I work on the basis that anything that makes your life a bit easier has got to be worth it. With that in mind I flicked through the Lakeland catalogue and picked out a few ways to ease the load.

Personally I have always loved my pressure cooker and it cooks the meat to perfection but I spend a lot of time waiting around for it to come up to pressure, for the hiss to reach the right level. So when I saw the Lakeland online information on a microwave pressure cooker I knew it would be worth a try.

Wow! Cooks beautifully, can be left in the microwave while you disappear for a few minutes without it filling the kitchen with steam and is so easy to clean afterwards. I'd definitely give it top marks.

And their collapsible steamer, again using the microwave, yes I not ashamed to say



Microwave pressure cooker - £34.99



Collapsible microwave steamer - £4.99



Large roasting tin with pouring lip - £13.99

that our microwave does get a bashing, is both a quick and healthy way to cook - no more mushy overcooked veg.

Of course there are occasions when the cooker is needed, especially with roast potatoes. Ever tried pouring the fat or juices out of the roasting tin and all the contents start to tumble into the sink. No more, the Lakeland roasting tray has a corner lip meaning the contents stay in. Far safer than risking getting splashed with hot fat.

But no fear if anything is spilled on the floor just pick up your spray mop. A quick squirt and the floor looks good again. And it can cope with many different surfaces.

No I'm not lazy, but with time-saving products like this around why make life difficult for yourself. Order the catalogue or check out the website, [www.lakeland.co.uk](http://www.lakeland.co.uk) for more useful ideas.



Bona mop system - £6.99

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# Mentally ill people 'need special support not A&E'

MENTALLY ill patients who dial 999 are being taken to A&E instead of getting psychological support, a mental health specialist has said.

Not only is Leanne Chapman a sergeant with West Midlands police, she is also a member of the mental health triage team, a partnership between the force, West Midlands Ambulance Service, and mental health colleagues.

The triage team operates a car with a police officer, mental health nurse and paramedic, who respond to 999 calls involving people who are suffering from an emergency related to their mental health.

However the triage is only on-call at certain times during the week, which means that when a mentally ill patient calls the emergency number outside these hours they are again put through to either the police, fire or ambulance service.

## Distressed

As a result, those who have no physical injuries but are suffering mentally are being taken to A&E only to be sent home again.

Sergeant Chapman said: "If you are psychotic, anxious and really, really distressed, and then you are taken to A&E, are you getting the right support? The mental health triage team averages 400 cases a month and operates 10am to 2am, seven days a week, and until 3am Friday and Saturday."

There are two teams in the Black Country, early and late shift, and two in the Birmingham and Solihull area. But these limited hours fell outside when one mental health sufferer needed urgent support. Although he prefers to remain anonymous, the patient spoke about his experience.

"My mental health was deteriorating and I thought the best thing I could do was to get help. I phoned 999 but the operator didn't know what I was talking about. The more questions they were asking the more frustrated I was getting. They were asking me things that weren't helpful," he said.



Triage – Lloyd Fox, paramedic Richard Bloore and nurse Harriot Lawrence

rating and I thought the best thing I could do was to get help. I phoned 999 but the operator didn't know what I was talking about. The more questions they were asking the more frustrated I was getting. They were asking me things that weren't helpful," he said.

Desperate for help, he ended up speaking to the fire, ambulance and police, with the latter actually attending before he was taken to A&E.

"I didn't think that was the best place for me because I didn't have any physical injuries," he said. After four hours in the emergency unit he was simply sent back home.

Sergeant Chapman said: "It was really interesting to hear the different approaches that the services had. The ambulance service went through a check-list of questions that they need to ask, and that was infuriating him, being asked if he had problems breathing and chest pains."

A WMAS spokesman said: "The Trust would welcome additional funding to provide 24/7 cover of the triage teams."

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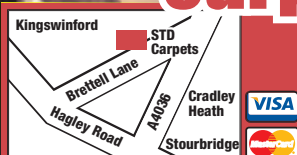
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## MP critical of sprinkler move

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has criticised a Government proposal to scrap sprinklers in schools.

New proposals from the Department for Education suggest ending a commitment to fitting sprinklers in all new schools.

The Fire Brigades Union and the West Midlands Fire Service want the Government to ensure sprinklers are installed in more high-risk buildings.

Mr Austin has written to the Education Secretary Justine Greening urging her to keep regulations in place so all new schools carry sprinklers.

He said: "No one wants unnecessary red tape but these rules are about protecting children. There's no reason why new schools shouldn't be equipped with sprinklers to help protect children in the event of a fire. I have written to the Education Secretary Justine Greening urging her to use common sense and keep these regulations in place."

## Kings of Leon bring UK tour to city venue



Rock band Kings of Leon have announced a Birmingham date

AMERICAN rock band Kings of Leon have announced a late winter date at a Birmingham venue as part of their first UK tour in more than two years.

The group consisting of brothers Caleb, Nathan and Jared Followill with their cousin Matthew Followill, found fame with such tracks as Sex on Fire, Supersoaker and Use Somebody, will play the Genting Arena on February 20.

The Grammy-award winning band from Tennessee released their seventh studio album, Walls, this month.

Tickets go on general sale today (Thursday) from 9.30am, available via [www.theticketfactory.com](http://www.theticketfactory.com) or by calling 0844 3388 222.

Some of the best up-and-coming indie bands are playing the two-day All Years Leaving mini-festival at the Hare & Hounds pub in Kings Heath tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday. Tomorrow's line up (from 6pm) is topped by London's Gengahr and includes Chicago punk band Twin Peaks and The Big Moon. Saturday (from 5pm) is led by Wolverhampton's Yak and includes Yuck and Hooton Tennis Club, among others. See [www.thisistmrw.co.uk](http://www.thisistmrw.co.uk) or pub website.

## Man appears in court charged with murder

A MAN arrested in a dawn raid in Dudley has appeared in court charged with the murder of a Birmingham teenager.

Isaiah Wright-Young, aged 36, was arrested in Dixons Green Road just after 5am on Sunday in connection with the killing of 18-year-old Kenichi Phillips.

Mr Phillips was shot dead on St Marks Crescent in the Ladywood area of Birmingham as he sat in a black Seat Leon just before 7pm on March 17.

Wright-Young, of no fixed address, stands accused of murder, attempted murder, attempted wounding with intent to cause grievous harm and two counts of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.

He appeared at Birmingham magistrates court on Monday and the case was adjourned to the city's crown court.

A 24-year-old woman, who was arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender, was released on police bail.

# Pub landlady sent to prison over speeding offence lies

**A LYING pub landlady has been jailed after trying to con police over a string of speeding offences.**

Samantha Keegan's Audi was clocked in May, July and September last year topping 30mph limits but on each occasion claimed her A4 was parked on her driveway at the time of the offences.

The 33-year-old suggested speed cameras had caught another blue Audi running on cloned plates.

To support her lies Keegan was said to have put stickers – including a

Union Jack flag and a GB disc – on the rear bumper and window of her car in an attempt to try and alter its appearance. However, the car was seized by West Midlands Police following information it was used in a robbery on October 31 last year when £7,000 in takings was stolen from the Holly Bush Inn on Penn Road, Wolverhampton, where Keegan worked.

### Camera

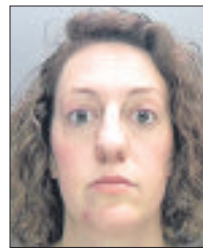
Keegan, who also ran the Clarendon in Chapel Ash and Meadow Lark in Dudley, was cleared of involvement in that but examination of the car showed tell-tale details that matched

the images caught by speed cameras.

She claimed her ex-husband put the stickers on the car and then claimed not to remember his name. When officers checked Keegan's phone they found text messages to her new partner. One read: "I can't keep blagging my way out of these, I could end up in serious trouble."

She told officers her car was outside her new Dorset address on September 22 when it was clocked at 37mph along Stow Heath Lane in Wolverhampton.

She eventually admitted perverting the course of justice. A judge at Birmingham Crown Court jailed her for eight months.



Guilty – Samantha Keegan

## Careers event for students

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James is hosting a careers evening on November 11 at the town's Glasshouse College. It is part of the Business Minister's 'raising aspirations' programme.

It will take place from 4.30pm to 6.30pm and offers be a chance for students to network with a number of businesses and organisations, as well as attending workshops on topics such as apprenticeships and the job application process.

Ms James said: "My aspirations programme is designed to give students the chance to find out more information about education and career opportunities post-16. I want every young person in Stourbridge to fulfil their potential."

To attend, visit the website [signup.margotjames.com](http://signup.margotjames.com) or email [margot.james.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:margot.james.mp@parliament.uk) or call (01884) 370 574.

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Coconut milk can be used to make a refreshing dairy-free ice cream

# Brush up on must-have skills for modern foodies

By Ella Walker

BBC Good Food magazine has unveiled the 21 must-know skills for modern foodies – and everybody's talking about them.

Here we take a quick look at some of our favourites:

## QUICK FRIDGE PICKLES

Ready to eat in a couple of hours, and great for digestive health, these couldn't be simpler. You'll probably already have most of the ingredients you need: salt, sugar, cider vinegar and a couple of aromatics, such as mustard seeds, Sichuan peppercorns and bay leaves. Mix five parts vinegar to one part sugar, plus a pinch of salt, and heat in a saucepan with the aromatics until the sugar has dissolved. Once cool, pour the pickling liquid over your chosen veg in a sterilised jar, seal and chill. They will keep for a week in the fridge.

## DEEP-FRIED AVOCADO

Great with a beer, and even better as a veggie substitute for fish tacos, this is a brilliant way to use avocados that refuse to ripen. Mix 150g flour with half a teaspoon of baking powder, half a teaspoon of ground turmeric, a pinch of cayenne and some seasoning, then whisk in 230ml of lager. Slice two avocados into eight (16 slices in total). Season well, dip them in batter, then deep-fry at 180C for around three minutes, until golden.

## THE ON-TREND DIP

In a food processor, whizz 200g of feta with 200g of thick Greek yogurt and four tablespoons of olive oil until smooth, then chill. Add herbs, toasted chopped nuts or dried fruit. Serve with veg sticks and flatbread.

## THE NEW NEGRONI...

...Is the sbagliato (which means 'gone wrong'). Use sparkling rose in place of gin. Add 25ml of Campari to 100ml of sparkling rose, one tablespoon of vermouth, loads of crushed ice and a slice of orange. For extra flavour, rub the rim of your glass with a strip of orange peel, squeezing to release the oils.

## VIBRANT VEGAN PESTO

A good pesto is all about great colour, taste and texture. The healthier option leaves out the Parmesan, so to achieve the umami hit, add one tablespoon of nutritional yeast (available at ocado.com) for a salty, savoury kick. A garlic clove and some good olive oil adds extra flavour. These combinations are our favourites:

1. Large handful of kale and small handful pumpkin seeds.
2. Two roasted yellow peppers, one teaspoon of turmeric and handful toasted macadamia nuts.
3. Small handfuls of parsley, mint and toasted pistachios.

## PERFECT POLENTA

Polenta is a comfort food and a good alternative to mash, so make sure it's rich and creamy. Add milk – roughly 200ml to every 600ml water. Be generous with the salt (at least two teaspoons per 150g of polenta), and the butter too – no skimping!

## SUPER-SMOOTH HOUMOUS

Tip the chickpeas into a big bowl, cover



Tuck into a Buddha bowl – half of it is filled with veg, one-quarter is made up of grains and one-quarter protein



You can use chick-pea water to whip up a tasty mayonnaise



The on-trend dip uses feta cheese and Greek yogurt

with cold water, then lift them out of the water and rub them between your palms to remove the skins. Lower your hands into the water – the skins should float to the surface and the chickpeas sink. Discard the skins and make your houmous as normal.

## BALANCED GRAIN BOWLS

Whether you call them grain, nourish or Buddha bowls, the idea is that half of it is filled with veg, one-quarter is made up of grains and one-quarter protein, such as chickpeas, roast chicken or feta. Make sure your dressing is zingy – lime, harissa and honey works well – and that there's plenty

of texture. Reserve a few chickpeas to roast in spices for the topping, or fry some seeds in a little soy sauce for a savoury hit.

## CRACKING COURGETTI

Don't pre-cook courgetti as you would spaghetti – drop the courgetti directly into your hot pasta sauce and toss together until it has just softened, but retains a little bite.

## EGG-FREE MAYO

Don't throw away your aquafaba (chickpea water) when you drain the can. Put three tablespoons of chickpea water, one heaped teaspoon of Dijon mustard, half a garlic clove, a generous squeeze of lemon

juice and 150ml of light flavoured oil, such as grapeseed, into a high-sided jar or bowl. Use a stick blender to blend to an emulsion – this will make around 300ml. Chill until required.

## DAIRY-FREE CREAM

For a dairy-free substitute for whipped cream, put stabilizer-free coconut milk (check the label) in the fridge for at least eight hours – once the cream has become solid, scoop off the thick top layer and beat with an electric whisk for a few minutes until you have lovely soft peaks. Add a bit of icing sugar to sweeten it, if you like.

# Keep germs off the menu for school lunchboxes

It's back to school for millions of children across the country and loving parents are packing them off with lunch boxes full of goodness. However, new research suggests they could unknowingly be packing them full of harmful bacteria too. ELLA WALKER reports.

NEARLY three quarters (73 per cent) of fabric lunch boxes tested were found to contain mould counts of up to 950 colony forming units (CFU) per 10 cm squared, according to the latest research by e-cloth.

If left these could continue to spore, causing health problems such as itchy eyes, migraines, eczema, coughs and asthma as well as aspergilliosis; a more serious condition that can affect those with weakened immune systems. More alarming however was the presence of Staphylococci (20 per cent), in particular, Staphylococcus Aureus (580 CFU in one case) and Enterococci (20 per cent) – bacteria that is usually found inside our bodies rather than on food.

Staphylococci is common and around 1 in 3 people carry the bacteria harmlessly. Similarly, Enterococci are normally found in a person's gut or bowel without causing a problem. However, the NHS warn that eating food contaminated with either of these bacteria can lead to serious cases of food poisoning.

These bacteria are often found on frequently used surfaces (such as door handles, toilet flushes, desk and kitchen surfaces), which have been touched by unwashed hands, particularly following bathroom use.

The tests also found that Yeast was present in over two thirds (66 per cent) of lunch boxes tested, and high counts of up to 920 CFU of Enterobacteriaceae were also found hiding under our ham sandwiches.

Laurence Smith, commercial director of e-cloth said: "The high volumes of non food-borne bacteria suggests that we aren't washing our hands before we pack or eat from our lunch boxes."

"It also shows that we aren't cleaning them properly either, which is allowing mould to spore and bacteria to grow."

"They might look clean, with their shiny interior, and often, all we'll do is shake out the crumbs but there is an underworld of invisible germs growing that we all need to be aware of."

Vicki Bates, founder of The Green Cleaner, said:

"Whist it might be alarming to discover this bacteria in the lunch boxes of our loved ones, there is a really simple fix to the problem. A thorough clean after every use is all that's needed. I wash my son's lunch bag every evening with an e-cloth in hot soapy water and leave it to dry naturally overnight."

"It's important not to use chemical cleaning sprays on anything our children and especially their food touches. There is lots of research suggesting these sprays are very damaging to our health. The best thing to do is keep it natural. If you wouldn't eat or drink it, then my advice is, don't use it."

**VICKI'S TIPS FOR A HEALTHY LUNCH BOX**  
**WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE YOU EAT** – It might sound like obvious advice but bacteria can easily transfer from our skin onto our food. Soap and water is all you need.

**CLEAN AFTER EVERY USE** – bacteria and mould thrive in this type of environment and will easily spread if you don't remove them.

**USE WHITE VINEGAR** – Use neat to naturally disinfect your lunchbox or dilute with water. Then just wipe clean.

**USE BICARBONATE OF SODA** – Sprinkle it into your lunchbox and leave overnight – it's a great deodoriser.

**DON'T USE THE WASHING MACHINE** – Most of the fabric lunchboxes will have care instructions on them, it's likely that the thermos layer will get damaged if you put them on a hot wash and there is no guarantee that you will have removed all of the germs using this method.

**DON'T USE BABY WIPES** – Whilst the lunchboxes might look clean, these wipes are not designed for removing bacteria.

**DON'T USE A DRY TEA TOWEL / DISH CLOTH** – It might make your lunch box look clean but all you're doing is moving the bacteria around.







Justin Bieber performs at the Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, on Monday night in front of more than 15,000 fans

# OK Justin, I have to admit that I am now a Belieber too

**Justin Bieber**  
Barclaycard Arena  
**BIEBER fever has taken hold in Birmingham where over two nights some 30,000 fans of the 22-year-old pop megastar were filling the city centre arena.**

But don't scream whilst Justin is talking. He doesn't like it.

"Screaming is obnoxious," the multi-million-album selling Canadian icon of cool told the fans on Monday night when his call for hush was not fully respected.

"Do me a favour, relax for a second. Take a chill pill," said the baggy-panted pop phenomenon, brow briefly furrowed under backward baseball cap. "It doesn't feel like I am being heard."

It was one of a couple of odd moments, the other being his elongated drum solo which seemed strangely out of place in such a hi-tech state-of-the-art spectacle of a show. And what a show. High definition graphics meant it was sometimes hard to work out what was real and what was digital trickery. This was a concert for the Xbox One generation.

Bieber himself popped up and down like a jack in the box via various trap doors and elevators after appearing first in a perspex box scrawling the title of the opening song, Mark My Words, on the walls. Then came Where Are U Now with Bieber joining his team of gymnastic dancers in the jerky, semi-robotic dance routine that has become his trademark.

## Highlights

There were 21 songs in his one hour and 45 minute set, built around an intermission that seemed designed to sell more merchandise with a Birmingham only T-shirt available in the break for £30. Most came from latest album Purpose, which gives this 123 date tour its name.

But a couple of old favourites got some of the biggest cheers, including Boyfriend and a revamped version of his breakthrough hit Baby. Since he last performed the latter in Brum, Bieber has grown up fast, gone bad boy and then reformed, gaining millions more fans and about 50 tattoos.

He proved he can sing with an acoustic interlude, sat upon a red velvet couch and strummed his guitar for a version of Major Lazer's Cold Water and his recent hit Love Yourself.

Other highlights included Company, where Bieber and co took off over the arena somersaulting on a trampoline, and the tick-tock terrific What Do You Mean?

The vocals were a blend of live and recorded, apparent when Bieber lowered the mic but his voice carried on. I don't think that bothered the fans at all. They want a dancing and singing star and recreating the machined-tooled sound of the Purpose album leaves no room for gasps.

He did get briefly philosophical on the subject of Purpose, before plugging the merch one last time before the encore. Sorry, sent fans home happy just after 11pm. I know his Purpose, to make shed loads of money and brilliantly catchy R&B flavoured pop songs. He does it very well. I've seen his fate and I am a Belieber.

He's back in the West Midlands to play the Genting Arena at the NEC on October 24 but that's sold out too.

Leon Burakowski



Mark My Words – the pop star arrived inside a transparent box



Justin Bieber in dance action – but the vocals carried on



The Canadian pop star had a troupe of top class hip hop dancers

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# Manor Way Primary Academy



**Welcome to Class R at Manor Way Primary Academy. We are so proud of our current Reception Class and how well they have settled into life at Manor Way!**

We know that starting school is such an important time in your child's life, so we want to make it as fun and memorable as possible. Our days are filled with exciting activities inspired by the children and their interests. Already this term we have focused our learning around scarecrows and pizza making! We have a 'wizardy' week planned where we will be making magical potions, decorating pumpkins and will even have a go at some pumpkin bowling! New and exciting activities are planned daily, which enable the children to access learning in a variety of ways.

**OPEN DAYS FOR RECEPTION  
SEPTEMBER 2017 ARE:**

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**Please come visit us at Manor Way**

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## Well Done Reception



The children in Reception at Olive Hill Primary School have settled in very well during their first few weeks. They have had an exciting and busy start to the year with their topic 'Knowing Me, Knowing You'. The children have been learning all about themselves and their emotions using the story of 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas. In other topic work they have explored their senses; doing taste, smell and touch investigations. Reception have been looking at their focus author Julia Donaldson in literacy work and have read some of her well-loved books such as 'A Squash and a Squeeze' and 'Zog'. In maths they have been exploring number and quantities, practising their counting skills. Another exciting event where there was an opportunity for the children to work with their parents was the literacy stay and play sessions. The children enjoyed showing the adults their phonic skills. They are looking forward to continuing with their learning after an exciting start to the term.



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# fast the ticket

## Rock on

Million Dollar  
Quartet – Page 23



**Omid Djalili**  
Page 23

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# Bonehead remembers being there, even now

**They were the biggest band on the planet – in 1996, Oasis had the world at their feet.**

They were the acme of rock 'n' roll. They drank champagne, snorted cocaine, hung out with supermodels and flicked the finger to waiting paparazzi.

Prime ministers and Hollywood A-listers wanted to be their mates. Their two Knebworth gigs held 250,000 fans but received ticket applications from 2.6 million. No band, other than The Beatles during the 1960s, had had such a profound effect on the nation's culture and psyche. So when Oasis booked Abbey Road Studios to record their third album, Be Here Now, the stakes could not have been higher. After the success of (What's The Story) Morning Glory, they had everything to lose and nothing to gain.

At the time of its release, Be Here Now was the most popular record of all time. It received unanimous and truly amazing praise from critics. It shipped 424,000 copies in the UK on the first day of its release and 696,000 by the end of the week, making it the fastest-selling album in British history. And though history has been unkind to the record, re-evaluating its artistic merit, it remains a sensationally popular record. Lauded as being the most effusively praised record since Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, Be Here Now was a unique recording.

### Difficult

Rhythm guitarist Paul 'Bonehead' Arthurs recalls: "The sessions were difficult. We'd reached the height at that point and we couldn't make a move. Wherever we went, there was paparazzi and the whole media circus. All eyes were on us."

It could have been so different. There was a moment, at the start of Be Here Now, when Oasis could have exceeded expectation – when they could have justified the hype.

The album is now being remastered and reissued in October to commemorate 20 years since they started to record it. It will include the original demos laid down for the album, and these are what Bonehead remembers fondly. "Noel brought back the demos from Mustique," he reminisces. "They were incredible, they weren't usual Noel demos. Normally he'd send them with one or two acoustic guitars and a vocal and it was great. But he came back from Mustique and there were keyboards, bass, harmonies – they were fully fledged songs. It was really f\*\*\*ing exciting."

"And then we were booked into Abbey Road, which is iconic. But from there, it

just went downhill. The paparazzi were breaking into the studio, looking for drugs, looking for a story. I was staying in an apartment with Owen, the producer, which was next door. We were living and sleeping there. But we had to put a disguise on before going to the shops in the morning."

On Definitely Maybe and (What's The Story) Morning Glory, Oasis had been able to switch off and focus when it came to recording. They were afforded no such luxury for Be Here Now. "Our sacred space was the studio."

"No matter how big or small you are, you shut the doors and get on with it. But the media circus was always in the back of our mind. Owen and I were in the apartment next door and it should have been incredible."

"But when I wanted to nip to the pub with Owen for a pint I wasn't allowed. We couldn't do it. We had orders from the office. There were paps outside."

### Scrutiny

The record was made when the band were on the crest of a wave. They had no complaints about the fuss and scrutiny that surrounded them. They were living out their dreams. "It was mind-blowing at the time. It all happened so fast," adds Bonehead. "It's what we lived and breathed and what we wanted to do from the start. We wanted it more than anyone, we believed more than anyone. But poor old Liam would open his bedroom curtains and 40 f\*\*\*ing cameras would be snapping away. I think he dealt with it admirably. I think he still does."

Be Here Now was the definition of ambition. While other bands were making three-and-a-half-minute Britpop songs, Oasis were recording nine-minute epics like All Around The World with 40-piece orchestras.

"Noel had that song from back at The Boardwalk, in Manchester. It could have gone on the first album but he said he wouldn't release it until he had a 40-piece orchestra. And by the time of Be Here Now, we could afford that. Now there's a man with a vision. He knew, even before the first album, where he was going."

### Professional

"You know, the album eventually got slagged off. And as the years go by, even Noel has slagged it. But I personally love it. My Big Mouth, Magic Pie – what great tunes." Drugs were as common as tea, though Bonehead tended to steer clear.

"Yeah, there's all the drugs. And if Noel says he was doing a lot of cocaine then he was doing a lot of cocaine. But one thing's for sure, Noel wasn't snorting 10 minutes before he was putting a guitar part down, he wasn't doing it before he went on stage. We were too professional for that. I certainly



wasn't doing cocaine. On a Friday night I'd go home to my family while the others partied."

As a live act, there was no-one better in the world. During the mid-to-late-90s Oasis were on fire. That meant they never had a day off, which led to inevitable problems.

"There were loads of incidents. Liam would be like, 'f\*\*\* this, you can f\*\*\*ing sing, I'm not doing this gig. I'm going to go and buy a house'. From day one to Knebworth, it was constant, man. In hindsight, maybe we should have taken a break."

"There should have been time to buy a car, have a holiday or buy a house. But we didn't. We kept going and going and going. We didn't complain. But s\*\*\* happens on tour."

"Generally you're big boys and it's forgotten the next morning. I had a good relationship with everyone. And I'm closer to Liam now than I've ever been in my life. I always used to say I was the rhythm guitarist and tour psychiatrist. If there was a little fallout when we were hurling down the motorway, I'd be the one pulling Noel and Liam apart and telling them to get over it and sit down. I always did jump in."

### Iconic

Bonehead remembers the colossal nature of Knebworth – the iconic gigs that recently celebrated their 20th anniversary. Flying around the site by helicopter showed him the magnitude of the gig. "It was massive. It was enormous. Just walking on stage and hearing the crowd: I'll never forget that. Then John Squire joining us for Champagne Supernova was a total buzz. I was a fan-boy on stage when John Squire came on."

"When I first heard the demo for Champagne Supernova, I cried. I'm a Cancerian, so I'm pretty weepy. I'm nearly crying now. Noel had the song and he played it. We'd had a few beers. It was amazing."

It's been 20 years since the start of Be Here Now and Bonehead's had time to take stock. When Oasis were huge, he didn't dwell. Life moved too quickly for him to think. The safest place was in the eye of the hurricane.

"We didn't have a laptop. We couldn't Google ourselves or look on Twitter so we couldn't see what was going on. We didn't even have mobile phones. We were just



Brothers – Noel and Liam Gallagher

hurting round the world doing it and leaving this trail behind us."

"I didn't really realise how big it got. It really took me two years after leaving the band to work it out. I got my head round it in 2001/2 – that was when I realised it. Before that, it was a rollercoaster, let's go for it."

He's in touch with Liam every day. "I'm very close to him. We try to get away and have a weekend in Europe or go and have a week away."

He left when he knew he could no longer give it 100 per cent. "We were recording Standing on the Shoulders of Giants in France," he said. "It should have been the best time ever but it just felt a bit flat to me. There wasn't that spark. You couldn't be in that band and not give 100 per cent. Anything less, you had to go. I wasn't going to lie. I sat down and said 'it's time to go'. I've never regretted it. I just wanted to spend a bit of time with my family."

By Andy Richardson



The Be Here Now album is being re-released



# The Million Dollar Quartet rock again

ROCK 'n' roll show Million Dollar Quartet is based on the true story of when Sun Records boss Sam Phillips brought together Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash and Carl Perkins in the same studio.

That impromptu jam session in December 1956 represented probably the ultimate rock supergroup featuring the founders and icons of rock 'n' roll, who also went on to energise the country music scene.

Staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday to Saturday, the show will star Jason Donovan (himself no stranger to pop music fame) as the 'Father of Rock 'n' Roll', Sam Phillips, the man who launched several rock greats on the road to fame.

## Legendary

The West End and Broadway show takes the audience inside the Memphis studio and brings to light an extraordinary story of broken promises, secrets and the poignant once-in-a-lifetime celebration of four friends.

Written by Tony Award nominees Colin Escott and Floyd Mutrux, Million Dollar Quartet brings that legendary night to life featuring a score of hits including Blue Suede Shoes, Hound Dog, I Walk The Line, Great Balls of Fire, That's All Right, Folsom Prison Blues and Memories Are Made Of This.

Pop hit-maker turned stage star Jason Donovan said: "These songs



Million Dollar Quartet - recreating the night when rock icons jammed together

are so iconic of the era and they relate not just to that period but to music today. It's the foundations of music all around the world in every genre.

"I thought the music of that era was outstanding, it's fun. It was sort of a rebellious period. There's some big characters. Essentially the story

of Sun Records is an incredible music industry story about one man who took all these acts to the world."

And there is a local twist in that almost exactly ten years to the day that the session was recorded, 'The Killer' himself, Jerry Lee Lewis played a concert at Birmingham Hippodrome.

# News fuels Omid show

AWARD-WINNING comedian and actor Omid Dhalili is coming to Wolverhampton as part of a massive 108-date UK tour of his brand new show Schmuck For A Night.

Of trying to make sense of the world around him in Schmuck For A Night, Omid said: "It'll be so current sometimes audiences won't laugh until they get home and turn on the TV."

As a stand-up and actor, Omid's credits range from Hollywood movies to productions on the West End stage. He has starred in films such as varied as Shaun the Sheep Movie, Mr Nice, Gladiator, Sex And The City 2, The Mummy and David Baddiel's The Infidel, in which Omid had the starring role.

He has also just been cast in Disney's new live-action production of The Nutcracker, which he will be filming alongside the tour. On TV recently, Omid has been seen in the BBC Four series Going Forward with Jo Brand, as well as in Dickensian for BBC1 and Stan Lee's Lucky Man for Sky1.

## Documentary

Omid has also produced the acclaimed documentary We Are Many, about the global anti-war demonstrations that took place in 800 cities on February 15 2003. This August he produced an Edinburgh Fringe show called Iraq Out & Loud, which saw almost 1,500 people read out the Chilcot Report for 24 hours a day, over 12 days.

He is performing at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton on Saturday, and returns to the region to play Redditch Palace Theatre on November 4, Worcester's Huntingdon Hall on November 15 and Oakengates Theatre in Telford on January 18.



## The Exorcist brings Halloween terror

BIRMINGHAM Rep has assembled a powerful cast for a new stage version of The Exorcist from tomorrow (Friday) to November 5.

The play by John Pielmeier is drawn from William Peter Blatty's novel, on which the double Oscar winning movie was based.

Peter Bowles (from TV's The Manor Born) plays exorcist Father Merrin, called to help a young girl, Regan. Jenny Seagrove (from Judge John Deed) plays Regan's mother and Adam Garcia is the young priest who finds himself in a duel with the devil with Regan's soul at stake. It's for over 18s only with scenes and language that may shock.

## It's Heaven, Divine or relearn your ABC

THERE is an 1980s nostalgia this week with Heaven 17 and ABC both in Birmingham.

Glen Gregory and Martyn Ware will perform Heaven 17's Penthouse and Pavement album in full and reactivate off-shoot group British Electric Foundation at Birmingham Town Hall tomorrow (Friday).

Martin Fry's ABC will be performing The Lexicon of Love and songs from its recent sequel at the Symphony Hall on Monday, the same night Neil Hanon's The Divine Comedy play Birmingham Town Hall. Or get up to date with JB's on Monday-Jake Bugg at O2 Academy or Justin Bieber at Genting Arena.

## Minecraft fun and games with Dan

HE is one of the biggest names in the world - if you're into video game Minecraft. Now YouTube sensation DanTDM is coming to Birmingham with his smash hit brand of gaming chat.

The 24-year-old from Wellingborough has matinee and evening shows at Birmingham Hippodrome on Sunday and both are likely to be sold out.

Dan 'The Diamond Minecraft' Middleton has a YouTube channel with around 14 million subscribers where he posts his comic commentary videos, plus tips and advice for gamers. He said: "You can expect some custom-made TDM games and audience participation."

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## DIGITAL



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**12.20 Film: Rogue. (2007) 1.50**  
 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.55 BBC News.**

**1.05** Andrew Marr's Great Scots: The Writers Who Shaped a Nation. (R) **2.05** **Film:** Renoir. (2012) **3.50** This Is BBC Two.

**12.50** Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

**11.30 Film: Locke.** (2013)  
**1.10 Film: The Great Beauty.** (2013)  
**3.35 Hollyoaks.** (R) **5.45 Food**  
 (Unwrapped) (R)

**10.30 Film: Redbelt.** (2008) Premiere. Drama, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor.

**12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Police Interceptors.** (R) **4.00 Raw Recruits: Squaddies at 16.** (R)

**1.13** Black-ish **2.00** The Goldbergs **3.00**  
The Big Bang Theory **4.00** Rude (ish)  
Tube Shorts **4.15** Film: Stuart Little  
(1999) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00**  
Film: Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter  
(2012) **11.05** Googlebox **12.10** The  
Inbetweeners **1.20** Rude Tube **3.20**  
Googlebox **4.10** The Mindy Project

**Film4**

**1.00** The House of Magic (2013) **2.40** A  
Monster in Paris (2011) **4.25** Fletch  
(1985) **6.30** A League of Their Own  
(1992) **9.00** The Secret Life of Walter  
Mitty (2013) **11.15** Wanted (2008) **1.25**  
Madhouse (2004) **3.15** Close

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CHOICE



Virginia McKenna

**Virginia McKenna's Born Free (Channel 4, 7pm)**  
The actress returns to the Kenyan locations of the classic movie about a lion being reared by humans to mark its 50th anniversary. Virginia shares her experiences of working alongside wild lions for nine months, revealing how she was able to earn the animals' trust, and reflects on how the film changed public perceptions of wildlife. The programme examines the political backdrop of the film, with footage of Kenya officially gaining independence from British imperial rule.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Points of View. **3.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Attenborough & the Giant Dinosaur. (R) **5.50** BBC News. **6.05** Regional Programme. **6.15** Countryfile. Anita Rani visits Britain's first commercial walnut harvest in Somerset, while Matt Baker meets a man in East Sussex who spends half of each year living off grid in a tree house made of recycled wood. A botanist reveals how he uses time-lapse filming to record fungi growing. Naomi Wilkinson discovers how conkers became a valuable resource during the First World War, and chef Cyrus Todiwala prepares Indian style sausages using rare breed woodland pork. Including weather for the week ahead. **7.15** Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's contest, and the two lowest scoring couples compete in a dance-off. LeAnn Rimes is this week's guest singer. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team value more rarities at Baddesley Clinton, near Solihull, including a rare silver box and a painting entitled The Nudist Colony's Annual Dinner. Dance. **9.00** Poldark. Ross and Dwigth face trial after the disastrous smuggling incident. George continues to send men to make Elizabeth feel threatened – then offers to help if she will marry him. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents Premier League highlights, including Chelsea v Manchester United at Stamford Bridge, as Jose Mourinho returned to the club where he won three league titles. **11.30** Film: Eagle Eye. (2008) Two strangers go on the run from the authorities after receiving phone calls warning their lives are in danger. Thriller, with Shia LaBeouf. **1.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.15** The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.00** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** Countryfile. (R) **9.45** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** Food & Drink. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** American Football: NFL Live. New York Giants v Los Angeles Rams (Kick-off 2.30pm). **6.00** Who's Spending Britain's Billions? Jacques Peretti looks beyond the well-known budgets of schools, hospitals and foreign aid to the range of taxation projects the public know less about. Peretti finds that local councils across the UK are signing contracts with management consultancy firms who can take a percentage of any savings they find. He also reveals that hundreds of the millions of taxpayers' pounds spent on these contracts are covered by confidential deals, meaning very little detail is known about them. In this revealing insight, Peretti asks if the public deserves to know more about how those charged with managing the nation's billions are spending it. (R) **7.00** Inside Obama's White House. The story of how Barack Obama resolved to reform the healthcare system in the United States, despite stern opposition from the Republicans and within his own party. (R) **8.00** Horizon: The Wildest Weather in the Universe. Scientists conducting research into weather on other planets, who have discovered strange phenomena including rains of precious stones, supersonic winds and world-spanning storms. **9.00** Wild West: America's Great Frontier. The series concludes with a journey along America's West coast, exploring the impact of the ocean on the landscape and animals gathering in the Sea of Cortez. Last in the series. **10.00** Mock the Week. Angela Barnes, Ed Byrne, Ed Gamble, Ivo Graham and Romesh Ranganathan join host Dara O Brain and regular Hugh Dennis. (R) **10.35** QI XL. **11.20** Film: Downfall. (2004) **1.45** Sign Zone: Aberfan: The Fight for Justice. (R) **2.45** Countryfile. (R) **3.40** Holy City. (R) **4.40** This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.30 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) **11.25** Chopping Block. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.40** The X Factor. (R) **2.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **4.30** Tipping Point. (R) **5.30** Doc Martin. (R) **6.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** The Chase Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Angelica Bell, Orisye Williams, Leslie Ash and Ian Lavender pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught. **8.00** The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the results of last night's live show, revealing which acts are safely through to the next round. The two lowest scoring contestants compete in a sing-off in front of judges Simon Cowell, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh to decide who gets to stay in the competition and who gets eliminated. **9.00** Tutankhamun. Carter returns to the Valley of the Kings to complete his search as the First World War draws to a close, but has to contend with Anti-British sentiment sweeping across Egypt. **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.15** Peston on Sunday. Political magazine. (R) **11.15** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **12.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.15** Shipping Wars. **6.40** Shipping Wars. **7.05** Frasier. (R) **7.30** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Posh Pawnbrokers. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **10.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. Comedian Jack Whitehall joins the hosts. (R) **1.30** Film: Lemnys Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events. (2004) Comedy adventure, starring Jim Carrey. **3.35** Child Genius vs Celebrities: SU2C Special. Richard Osman hosts a quiz show featuring gifted youngsters. (R) **4.35** Film: Sister Act. (1992) Nightclub singer Deloris Van Cartier agrees to testify against her gangster boyfriend after witnessing a murder. Placed in protective custody by the authorities, she is less than pleased to discover she is expected to pose as chaste nun Sister Mary Clarence in a convent. Comedy, starring Whoopi Goldberg, Harvey Keitel, Maggie Smith, Bill Nunn and Kathy Najimy. Edited for language. **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Virginia McKenna's Born Free. The actress recalls the making of the classic movie. **8.00** Great Canal Journeys. New series. Timothy West and Prunella Scales take a trip to Bristol, where Timothy is soon to play King Lear at the Old Vic theatre. They both revisit the Devon homes they spent their childhoods in during the Second World War and board a replica of a 15th-century tall ship and a paddle steamer. Pru shares her memories of meeting evacuees from London in the small fishing village of Bucks Mills. **9.00** Film: The Grand Budapest Hotel. (2014) Premiere. An old man tells a journalist the story of his youth as a lobby boy at a hotel in Eastern Europe in the 1930s. He was taken under the wing of the establishment's dashing concierge, and is drawn into his misadventures as he becomes involved in a contest over a valuable painting. Wes Anderson's comedy drama, starring Ralph Fiennes. **11.00** Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Highlights. Steve Jones presents action from the 18th round of the season at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas. **1.00** Film: Baggage Claim. (2013) Romantic comedy, with Paula Patton. **2.35** Food Unwrapped. (R) **3.05** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.00** Pats. (R) **7.05** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.40** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **9.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.00** Great South Run. **12.05** The Gadget Show. **1.05** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **1.35** Film: Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son. (2011) Comedy, with Martin Lawrence. **3.40** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore. (2010) Comedy sequel, starring Chris O'Donnell. **5.15** Now That's Funny! **6.15** Film: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls. (1995) The eccentric pet detective is coaxed out of self-imposed exile in a Buddhist monastery to visit Africa and help search for a sacred white bat. However, his unique investigative talents are tested to the limits as he faces a race against time to find the missing creature and prevent a tribal war. Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey, Simon Callow and Bob Gunton. Edited for sex and language. Includes 5 News Update at 7.15pm. **8.00** Ice Road Truckers. Ice road rookie Mike attempts his first solo delivery, while Lisa and Darrell secure a high-stakes mission to deliver some urgently needed electrical transformers to a distant town. **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Film: Need for Speed. (2014) Premiere. A street racer is betrayed by a friend, and ends up being framed for causing a death during an illegal contest. Two years later, he is released from prison and returns to the underground racing circuit with revenge in mind. Action adventure based on the video game, starring Aaron Paul, Dominic Cooper, Imogen Poots and Michael Keaton. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm. **11.30** Film: Takers. (2010) Six bank robbers plan a lucrative armoured car robbery, but a determined police officer is closing in on them. Crime thriller, starring Paul Walker, Matt Dillon and Idris Elba. **1.30** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.00** Criminals Caught On Camera. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** British Art at War: Bomberg, Sickert and Nash **8.00** Aberfan: The Green Hollow **9.00** Aberfan: A Concert to Remember **10.00** Arena: The Roundhouse – The People's Palace **11.00** Pink Floyd Beginnings 1967 – 1972 **12.00** Horizon: Dinosaurs – The Hunt for Life **1.00** Oak Tree: Nature's Greatest Survivor **2.30** British Art at War: Bomberg, Sickert and Nash **3.30** Close **ITV2**  
**1.15** You've Been Framed! **Gold 1.45** I'm a Celeb: Jüngstlings Moments **2.45** Film: See Spot Run (2001) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50** Film: See Spot Run (2001) **4.40** Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45** Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **6.25** Film: Twilight (2008) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** Film: Twilight (2008) **8.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.45** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**  
**12.30** Lewis **2.25** Film: Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle (1972) **4.05** Film: Carry On Henry (1971) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** Film: Carry On Henry (1971) **5.55** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Rising Damp Inspector **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.10** Inspector Morse **2.15** The Kindness of Strangers **3.25** May the Best House Win **5.10** You're Only Young Twice **ITVA**  
**1.00** Monster Carp **2.05** Cash Cowboys **4.00** Storage Wars: Texas **4.35** Storage Wars: Texas **5.00** Counting Cars **6.00** Pawn Stars **9.00** Film: Last Man Standing (1996) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: Last Man Standing (1996) **11.10** Film: 30 Days of Night (2007) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** Film: 30 Days of Night (2007) **1.20** Fishing Impossible **2.15** Hell on Wheels **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**  
**3.35** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **3.50** The Big Bang Theory **6.45** Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) **9.00** Tattoo Fixers: Stand Up to Cancer **10.05** Crazyhead **11.50** The Inbetweeners **12.55** Gogglebox **1.55** Tattoo Fixers: Stand Up to Cancer **2.55** Body Fixers **3.45** Hollyoaks **Film4**  
**1.00** Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) **2.40** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011) **4.40** City of Ember (2008) **6.30** Life of Pi (2012) **9.00** Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World (2003) **11.40** Piranha 3DD (2012) **1.20** Sanctum (2011) **3.35** Close



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**FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL**



## FILM CHOICES

### MONDAY

#### Cradle 2 the Grave, Channel 5, 11.05pm

A Taiwanese undercover agent helps a master jewel thief track down the international crimelord who has kidnapped his daughter and is using her as a bargaining chip to obtain a cache of rare black diamonds. Action thriller, starring Jet Li, DMX, Mark Dacascos, Tom Arnold and Gabrielle Union. (2003)

### TUESDAY

#### A Father's Secret, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Ambitious young attorney Carrie aspires to become a partner like her fiancé, and eagerly accepts a billion-dollar wrongful death case in a bid to improve her standing in the legal profession. Thriller, starring Willa Ford. (2016)

### WEDNESDAY

#### The Scorpion King, ITV, 10.45pm

A ruthless warlord resolves to rid the desert of its few remaining tribes, prompting them to seek the help of a legendary assassin to end the despot's reign of terror by destroying his source of power – a beautiful but deadly sorceress. Fantasy action adventure, starring Dwayne Johnson, Steven Brand and Kelly Hu. (2002)



Tombstone, Friday, Channel 5, 10pm

### THURSDAY

#### Tanu Weds Manu Returns, Channel 4, 1.10am

Sequel to the 2011 movie Tanu Weds Manu. The couple are living in London but have grown bored with each other, so Tanu returns to India, begins divorce proceedings and returns to her flirtatious ways. Romantic comedy, starring R Madhavan and Kangana Ranaut. In Hindi with English subtitles. (2015)

### FRIDAY

#### Tombstone, Channel 5, 10pm

Renowned marshal Wyatt Earp becomes a professional gambler in the town of Tombstone, but is forced out of his retirement to take on a gang of hellraising villains no one else is prepared to stand up to. Joining forces with his brothers and drunken gunslinger Doc Holliday, he gets ready to face them in a showdown at the OK Corral. Western, starring Kurt Russell, Val Kilmer, Bill Paxton, Sam Elliott, Michael Biehn and Charlton Heston. (1993)

# The final is set to end in tiers all round

When it was announced earlier in 2016 that The Great British Bake Off was moving to Channel 4, for many that was the final (cheese) straw.

In a year when we had to say goodbye to British legends Terry Wogan, David Bowie, Victoria Wood and Alan Rickman, as well as the shock Brexit result, the loss of one of the best loved shows on BBC One was too much to bear.

After series seven, no longer would we get to experience that twinkle in Mary Berry's eye as the whiff of a boozy cake wafted under her nose.

The thought of losing Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins was also horrific. The Light Lunch veterans provided a shoulder to cry on when the cookies didn't crumble the way contestants had hoped, or soufflés collapsed like a bouncy castle's close encounter with a siletto heel.

Obviously as the Beeb is paid for by the license fee, the thought of spending a fortune to keep it on an advert-free channel proved richer than a fruit sponge for the powers-that-be.

So, like former Beeb favourites Morecambe and Wise and The Voice UK, it will head for the land of ad breaks.

Though many might disagree, this has been one of the best years so far for invention, daring and downright nail-biting entertainment.

Who could forget Candice Brown's edible pub, or dazzling marzipan peacock?

Certainly not the millions of fans who were marvelling over her creativity while wondering where she got her inspiring ranges of lipstick.

Then there's Selasi Gbormittah, the Londoner who was the epitome of calm under pressure. His culinary creations also took the breath away.

And who didn't marvel at the work of Andrew Smyth, the Eddie Redmayne lookalike whose bakes were often Oscar worthy – if there was an award for most mouthwatering creations?

There were so many other contestants in this series who measured, whisked, stirred and kneaded while making silent prayers

by their respective ovens that the silver fox would give his approval.

Yes, Paul Hollywood, the only GBBO veteran preparing to make the leap to Channel 4, has long been the hardest to please in this contest. Though Ms Berry summations have seemed spot on, Liverpool's most fearsome baking expert has never suffered fools gladly.

So whoever wins this edition, those final trials will be anything but a piece of cake.

But before the victor is announced around 8.55pm, spare a thought for all those incredible contestants who have won our hearts over the past six years.

Edd Kimber, Joanne Wheatley, John Whaite, Frances Quinn, Nancy Birtwhistle and Nadiyah Hussain may have all clinched victory, but also rans such as Ruby Tandoh and occasional 5 Live contributor Flora Shedden often proved to be just as entertaining.

With talk of a new BBC baking show featuring Mel and Sue, let's hope that whatever happens for the splintered GBBO team, things don't end here.



The Great British Bake Off: The Final, Wednesday, BBC1, 8pm

# BEST OF THE REST

### MONDAY

#### Autumnwatch 2016

BBC2, 8pm

It's not hard to see why Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan's nature series have become so popular. Aside from the often stunning footage of wildlife at different times of the year, there's the added bonuses of celebrity guests giving us their takes on the findings, and the dry putdowns of Packham when they deliver their artwork. As the new run begins, Chris, Michaela and Martin Hughes-Games are at Dorset's RSPB's Arne nature reserve, where they survey the local wildlife preparing for winter.

#### Saving Africa's Elephants: Hugh and the Ivory War

BBC1, 9pm

Every day more than 80 elephants are killed in Africa for their ivory, with experts warning that the African elephant could be extinct in the wild within 25 years if that rate continues. In this two-part documentary, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall goes on a mission to find out how this illegal trade can be stopped, beginning in the poaching hotspot of northern Mozambique. Hugh follows the trail through the Kenyan port of Mombasa to one of the busiest ivory markets in the world – Hong Kong.

### TUESDAY

#### Ordinary Lies

BBC1, 9pm

After finding a note in her boyfriend Neil's pocket, personal assistant Holly convinces herself that he's having second thoughts about their relationship. Desperately unhappy and anxious, she starts to reminisce about her old flame, Adam Carver. Discovering that he is newly single, Holly assumes a new online identity to try and win back his affection. Meanwhile, newly divorced Ally is ecstatic when intern Ash asks her out on an official date. Drama, starring Kimberley Nixon.

### WEDNESDAY

#### Little British Isles with Alison Steadman

Channel 4, 8pm

Alison travels across the English Channel to discover more about the idyllic life found on the Channel Islands. In Jersey, she dives into their cultural traditions and helps inseminate the iconic Jersey cow, and finds out more about how this island continues to hold onto its own traditional values. On Alderney, Alison discovers more about the abundance of wildlife found on the island.

### Him

ITV, 9pm

After losing control of his powers and almost destroying his father's house, HIM's parents struggle to work out what is best for their son. His relationship with his step-sister Faith is pushed to its limits as he continues to fight his feelings for her, adding extra strain to his already unstable emotional state. Meanwhile, HIM discovers some unnerving truths about his grandfather's inherited powers after a visit to his grandmother's.

### THURSDAY

#### The Apprentice

BBC1, 9pm

For their latest task, Alan Sugar summons the candidates to the Draper's Hall, where he informs them they are entering the luxury retail business, with each team taking over an area of world-famous department store Liberty of London. Over the course of two days, they must provide a personal shopping service for some of the capital's most discerning customers.



The Apprentice, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

### FRIDAY

#### Secrets of Great British Castles

Channel 5, 8pm

Historian Dan Jones begins a new run of the series in Edinburgh. These days, the city's stunning castle is a well-known landmark, but it has had a traumatic past and is widely thought to be Britain's most besieged stronghold. Its hilltop location made it the ideal place for an Iron Age base, and the spot has housed a military facility ever since; it is also Scotland's most popular paid tourist destination and an event that took place there is said to have inspired the Red Wedding in Game of Thrones. Jones also discovers that the castle was the target of the world's first aerial bombing.

### Still Game

BBC1, 9.30pm

Jack and Victor become unlikely marriage guidance counsellors when Fergie's head is turned by beautiful redhead, Kayleigh. While his wife of just one year, Sinead, is blissfully unaware her husband is lusting after another, Jack and Victor share their wisdoms about modern women's needs with Fergie. However, their well-meaning advice proves to be less than helpful. Meanwhile, Navid and Boabby job-swap to prove who has the cushiest career. Comedy, starring Ford Kiernan and Greg Hemphill.

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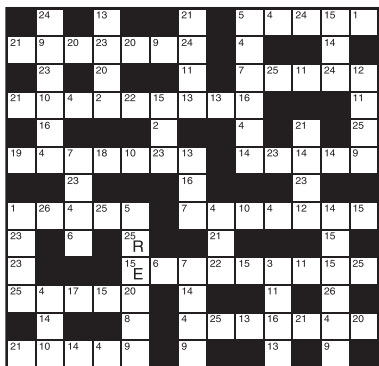
Phone : 0121-553-0666



# BRAIN GYM No.400

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

H	T	A	P	D	O	E	M	N	F	B	G	L
Y	W	C	V	Z	Q	U	R	J	K	I	X	S

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

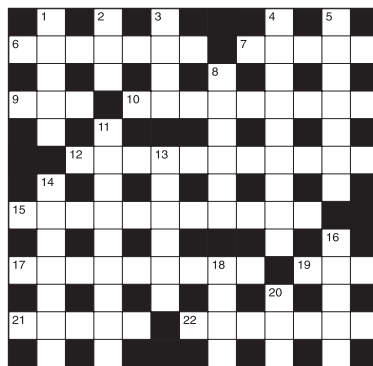
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- Sum invested in chief city (7)
- Craftsman, mother and boy (5)
- See 20 Down
- Making comments on the teacher's second correction of the work (9)
- Sly when short of workers? (11)
- Off the cuff, formerly not being intended to last (11)
- Grief's fun when in pain? (9)
- Little Dorothy returns in custody (3)
- Live amicably in order to prosper? (3,2)
- Again poetry can cause a setback (7)

#### Down

- Request male to leave fruit (5)
- Got teeth into a piece (3)
- Strain of people in athletic competition (4)
- Support first attempt on the rear door? (4,5)
- A reckoner in the shop? (7)
- Metal disc for getting clothes clean (6)
- Less than 12 inches being trodden on (9)
- Specialist was formerly saucy (6)
- Egghead has 90 applications for apologies (7)
- Raise one in the throng (5)
- A requirement of Eden (4)
- 20 & 9Ac. The males grow old in this household (6)



### Quick Clues:

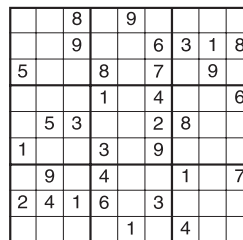
#### Across

- Lasting (7)
- Deluge (5)
- Not many (3)
- Shelter (4,5)
- Poor (11)
- Valise (11)
- Razed (9)
- Concealed (3)
- Condescend (5)
- Narration (7)

#### Down

- Silent (5)
- Manner (3)
- Entreaty (4)
- Unreasonable (9)
- Sad (7)
- Outcome (6)
- Copy (9)
- Dodged (6)
- Defile (7)
- Demon (5)
- Apiece (4)
- Lad (3)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	5	9	6	4	1	7	3	8
1	8	7	9	5	3	6	4	2
4	3	6	8	2	7	5	9	1
7	1	2	3	6	5	4	8	9
9	4	5	7	1	8	3	2	6
3	6	8	4	9	2	1	7	5
6	9	3	5	8	4	2	1	7
5	2	4	1	7	9	8	6	3
8	7	1	2	3	6	9	5	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Bard; 3 Moribund; 8 Brag; 9 Flashing; 11 Humiliations; 13 On time; 14 Scorer; 17 Raise the roof; 20 Nobleman; 21 Dine; 22 Pressing; 23 Ages. Down: 1 Babyhood; 2 Readmit; 4 Oilcan; 5 In stitches; 6 Union; 7 Dogs; 10 Old masters; 12 Triflers; 15 Rioting; 16 Strain; 18 Ambler; 19 Snap. QUICK - Across: 1 Drop; 3 Wretched; 8 Safe; 9 Corridor; 11 Excursionist; 13 Strive; 14 Victor; 17 Amelioration; 20 Calendar; 21 Sure; 22 Nonsense; 23 Deny. Down: 1 Dispend; 2 Officer; 4 Rookie; 5 Tyrannical; 6 Hades; 7 Dark; 10 Prevalence; 12 Princely; 15 Tribute; 16 Morass; 18 Melon; 19 Scan.

## Quiz

- Which book is also called the Book of Changes?
- From which bean is chocolate obtained?
- In which country did John Bull compose the British national anthem?
- Which Labour leader's middle names were Todd Naylor?
- How many riders take part in a speedway heat?
- In which city did the St Valentine's Day Massacre take place?
- With what is the Weddell Sea usually covered?
- What is the longest river in Scotland?
- With which motor-racing team did Damon Hill become Formula One champion?
- What type of creature is a merganser?

### Last week's solutions:

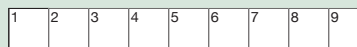
- Quiz: 1 Doorways and passages;  
2 Malcolm Bradbury; 3 A whale; 4 Polaris;  
5 Walter Scott; 6 John Updike; 7 Three;  
8 March 17; 9 Atlantic; 10 John.

### Niner: DOCTRINES

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 6321 gives a painter,  
82539 gives a composer,  
1793411 gives another composer.



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Pine lodges nestled in among the trees at Darwin Forest, near Matlock

# Lots Tor write home about after stay in Darwin Forest

By Graeme Andrew

**FOR** the perfect get-away-from-it-all holiday, in the heart of one of the most beautiful parts of the country, look no further than Darwin Forest Country Park near Matlock.

Bringing nature to the fore, luxurious facilities and backed by an enviable ecological ethos, this beautiful 44-acre park of pine lodges – set among some of the most spectacular landscapes in Britain – is ideal for both families and couples, looking for a break to remember.

Just stepping out of the car on arrival, immediately the freshness in the air took my breath away as I gazed upon rabbits scuttling around in the undergrowth. Then into the lodge itself, one of 100 sparingly dotted around the park, with enough space between to offer a real feeling of comfortable isolation – unlike some holiday parks where you can see what your neighbours are eating for breakfast.

## Membership

Beautifully kitted out with all the mod-cons you will ever need, the lodges provide five-star self-catering luxury with a surprising amount of space, and if you are so inclined, a hot-tub all to yourself. Darwin Forest is a perfect base for touring and my wife and I had already taken advantage of our National Trust membership and visited Hardwick Hall before our arrival.

The highlights? An amazing walk, a huge pot of tea, and a stumpery in the lovely gardens – yes, a Victorian idea of building a unique wilderness around tree trunks with their gnarled shapes. Alan Titchmarsh would be proud.

We opted for a couple of walks during our stay, which at some points became scrambles, with a fair few hundred feet either side of us, but stunning nevertheless – Mam Tor at Castleton and the thrilling Chrome Hill, near Hollinsclough.



The majestic Mam Tor, near Castleton, also called the Shivering Mountain, following landslides

It was particularly surreal to come across what was described as 'the broken road' near Mam Tor – basically a landslide some years ago put paid to Castleton having a main road out of the village after it collapsed and pedestrians now have access to this unique experience of walking on something akin to a disaster movie film set.

We interspersed our exertions with excursions to Matlock Bath and the Heights of Abraham – a must-see, considering our location; along with visits to the charming Chesterfield and Buxton, with its pretty Pavilion Gardens.

But the beauty of Darwin Forest is the vast spectrum of facilities and activities on offer, so that if you're not in the mood for tootling around and just want to spend time among the pines, there is plenty to do.

There are superb leisure facilities available, a lovely swimming pool, well-stocked gym as well as beauty treatments, with my other half opting for the de-stress massage session, and she gave that a big thumbs-up, having been trained as a masseuse herself. There is plenty to offer for the youngsters, with its Little Monkeys play area

and the Activity Den that has arcade games, table tennis, air hockey and pool tables, to keep the bigger kids happy.

Everywhere you look there is a real feeling of everything being in its right place, with lovely décor for instance in the Foresters bar and restaurant, plus the Explorers café – perfectly complementing the unique surroundings. Families with dogs are welcome too and there are plenty of trails for walking and cycling, with bikes also for hire. An all-weather tennis court and mini-golf course is available for the more sporty types.

Finally, we did try the Trim Trak – a trail including a few physical challenges along the way! I thank the lord that there was no CCTV to record my attempts at the monkey bars and climbing wall, where it took all my gumption, despite scaling the heights of the Peak District, to come down the other side, sliding down a 10ft high wooden bar!

Still, at least the rabbits had a good laugh... For further information on Darwin Forest, call 01629 732428, email [enquiries@darwinforest.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@darwinforest.co.uk); or log onto [www.darwinforest.co.uk](http://www.darwinforest.co.uk).

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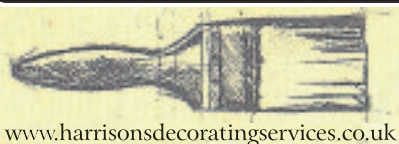
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- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
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- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

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**By Phone 01902 317878**

8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.  
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays

**Online**  
[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

**In person**

At your local Express & Star Office.  
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm  
Monday - Friday for the next day's  
advertisement or also before 3.00pm  
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

### funeral directors

**N.E.DOWNING**  
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent  
family run  
Funeral Directors

24 hour service  
Halesowen  
0121 422 2794  
[www.nedowning.co.uk](http://www.nedowning.co.uk)

### lost & found

**MISSING TABBY CAT**  
Seen in the Crowther Road  
area of Newbridge, slim with  
no white, very timid,  
microchipped, generous  
reward for her safe return.  
01902 682106.

# 1

## Family

### elderly & disabled

**MOBILITY SCOOTERS** from £350  
can deliver, servicing available.  
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384  
255019 / 07831 246292.

**SHOPRIDER MOBILITY** Scooter-  
good condition, hardly used, £500  
o.n.o. 01952 604638 or 07539  
592442.

**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** recondi-  
tioned lifts from £799. New avail-  
able. 01952 405397/07897 273617

# 2

## Leisure Time

### bikes

**WETHEPEOPLE CRYSLR BMX**,  
great condition, metallic blue, cost  
£395, sell £195. 07977 478191.

### caravans / motorhomes

**We Want Your Motorhome**

Finance Cleared  
Fast Secure Payment  
Top Prices Paid

Please Call  
AEG on 01384 848439 or  
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448  
[www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk](http://www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk)

**STATIC CARAVANS** for sale  
on quiet farm site at Chelmarsh,  
Bridgnorth, woodland walks,  
fishing on site prices from £8,500.  
Call 01746 861192.

### fishing

**THREE FISHING** poles, 15m, 13m,  
6m, all with spare tops, very good  
condition, £400 ono. Free float rigs  
with poles. 01384 237009 anytime.

**THREE FISHING** poles, 15m, 13m,  
6m, all with spare tops, very good  
condition, £400 ono. Free float rigs  
with poles. 01384 237009 anytime.

### jumble sales / fetes

**BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR**  
Sunday 23rd & 30th October

**KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
DY7 6ER  
10.30am - 4pm  
Tel: 01384 894464

### music shop

**FIVE STRING** Bass Guitar Wanted,  
condition important, inexpensive  
please. 07828 196505

### sports & leisure

**ELECTRIC MINI** treadmill, Bodyfit,  
£75. 01902 839777.

**TREADMILLS X TWO** as new, never  
used, one motorised, £80 ono. One  
non motorised, £40 ono. Must  
collect. 0121 293 6133.

### holidays

### caravan parks

**LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME** for Sale  
on 5\* Park, DG, CH, bar & restau-  
rant. Child & Pet friendly, 20 acres  
walking woodland £24,995 inc  
2017 site fees Call 01568 708 326

### what's on

### markets

**BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET**  
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY  
Banks' Stadium, Walsall FC  
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6  
07889 975701 All hard standing

# 3

## Home & Services

### furniture

**Frank Bosworth LIQUIDATION SALE**  
£685,000 at a fraction of RRP  
Chelsea Was £1199  
NOW £599

**Sally Was £89**  
NOW £49

**Wentworth Was £1599**  
NOW £899

**Milan Was £369**  
NOW £199

**BFC FACTORY OUTLET**  
CONVEYOR ROAD IND EST,  
GREAT BRIDGE RD, Tipton DY8 4XK.  
VISA OFF A461 2 MINS FROM NEW  
BFCO & TORY CARWASH  
**0121 657 6885**  
MON-SAT 10-6PM SUN 10-4PM

**BED SFT KING SIZE** luxury memory  
foam mattress 2 draw divan base,  
totally unused/packaged. Was  
£1,000 sell £295. 0778 7636984.

**DISPLAY CABINET** large, 3  
drawers, good condition, £200 ono.  
01384 623668 or 07547 741203.

### household appliances

**FRIDGE FREEZER** excellent condi-  
tion, £85 can deliver. 07766  
773231.

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your adver-  
tisement today? We would respect-  
fully remind advertisers that it is  
their responsibility to inform the  
publishers of any mistakes or inac-  
curacies on the first day of publica-  
tion.

### items wanted

**ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE**  
**CASH PAID TODAY**  
A GENUINE BUYER

All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft  
• Lladro • Old coins  
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY  
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings  
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items  
Pre-47 silver coins All war medals etc  
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING  
**01922 495066 or 07971 783206**

### A BEST CASH PRICE

### FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS

**Any gauge or age**  
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans  
/ Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh  
/ any live steam. Also Die Cast,  
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.  
01384 836219/07891 713547.  
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

**FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS**  
Any gauge or age  
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans  
/ Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh  
/ any live steam. Also Die Cast,  
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.  
01384 836219/07891 713547.  
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS**  
Over 35 years experience in the industry  
All aspects of building work including:  
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,  
driveways & landscaping.  
Discounts offered.  
**01902 579592 / 07837 994465**

**AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, ANTIQUE GUNS, TAXIDERMY- BIG BORE GUNS, TRAPS ETC WANTED. 07968 624202**

**COINS, MEDALS, BANK NOTES**  
Wanted by private collector.  
Telephone 01902 676540.

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to care-  
fully consider all of their options  
before agreeing to the sale of any of  
their items.

**RECORDS WANTED**  
50's, 60's, 70's, Rock, Punk,  
Rock / Roll, Jazz / 90's Indie.  
Collections bought.  
Music Memorabilia, Promo  
Posters, autographs, etc, etc.  
Top prices paid.  
Telephone 07966 252439.

**SPECTRUM GAMES** Wanted, also  
any old Crash magazines wanted,  
also Spectrum 2+ A 5 wanted.  
01902 892918.

**WANTED WOODEN** Boomerangs,  
must be good condition. 01902  
839558.

### items for sale

**AS NEW** Calor gas portable fire,  
Superwarm including accessories.  
£75 ono Never used. Must collect.  
01902 495584.

### specialists at your service

### aerials

**ClassifiedAds**  
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



**CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...**

I am very pleased  
with the response  
I get from my  
Classified  
Advertising  
Contract

Steve -  
AA Digital Aerials

**FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL**  
**01902 319 191**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**  
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75  
WE'LL BEAT ANY QUOTE  
Work Guaranteed  
**01902 858191**  
**01384 429166**

**01543 439095**  
**01922 716029**  
**07833 738857**

VISA  
01902 741546, 07899 636552

**alarms/security**

**PREMIER ALARMS**

Supplied and Fitted £195  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
**Call: 0121 601 9791**

**building services**

**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS**  
Over 35 years experience in the industry  
All aspects of building work including:  
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,  
driveways & landscaping.  
Discounts offered.  
**01902 579592 / 07837 994465**

### carpet & upholstery cleaning

**A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING**  
OAP discount, Recession Prices.  
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10  
Call Paul 07870 341089

### fencing

**PORTWAY FENCING**  
SPECIAL OFFER  
10 bays of quality fencing,  
concrete posts, gravel boards,  
HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED  
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 9am - 12noon  
83 Portway Rd, W.bury  
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

### gardening services

**GARDENS TIDIED** from £5 per  
garden. 25 years experience. Call  
01902 713105 / 07813 184086.

### gas fitting

**READERS ARE ADVISED**  
To check that anyone  
carrying out any Gas work  
is Gas Safe Registered.  
It is an offence under the Gas  
Safety (Installation and Use)  
Regulations 1998 to carry out  
gas work in the UK without  
being on the Gas Safe Register.

### home improvements

**Home Improvements**  
Quality Bathroom and Kitchen  
installation  
Plastering, tiling, carpentry  
Greg Blackham  
07739 518562  
gblackham15@hotmail.co.uk

### house clearances

**A ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid  
for house clearances and bereave-  
ments. Also removals undertaken.  
07852 172641 / 07710 360327

### painters & decorators

**DECORATOR**  
ALL domestic work  
undertaken  
Reliable & Affordable  
Special rates for OAPs  
No job too SMALL  
Call  
**07957 346 059**

### plastering

**M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES.** Home/Garden Improve-  
ments. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

### removals

**KT REMOVALS**  
12 years experience.  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.  
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.  
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:  
**07771 727119**

**A MAN WITH A VAN** Single items,  
flat/house removals/clearances,  
local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121  
422 2999 or 07815 043724

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your  
Removal needs, 07429 453209/  
01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

**CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN.**  
Removals, clearances, large/small.  
01902 741546, 07899 636552

**STOURBRIDGE REMOVALS**  
reliable, economical, free quote  
(07802) 876876

### roofing

**MG ROOFING** Flat roofs, tiling, roof  
repairs, fascias and gutters. Call  
01902 238989 / 07580 46449.

### FreeAds

**IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY**  
For items up to £250.  
Online at  
[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

### skip hire

**BLITZ SKIPS**  
AFFORDABLE SKIPS  
2-50 YARD SKIPS AVAILABLE  
MON-SAT 7AM-6PM  
**01902 870370**  
**0121 517 1111**

**ClassifiedAds**  
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



**GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE**

**CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...**

Thanks to our  
Classified advertising  
in the Express & Star  
we are really busy!  
It definitely  
works for us!

**Grinsells Skip Hire.**

**FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL**  
**01902 319 191**

Brought to you by Express & Star

### t.v. / home entertainment

### service

**AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST**  
Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc.  
CCTV cameras supplied & fitted.  
Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days.  
Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall  
mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

### 4 Pets & Animals

### equestrian corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to  
check if Horses have the required  
Passport information.

### guns & dogs

### NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers must ensure that  
they meet all necessary legal  
requirements for owning and  
using guns.

### pets corner

### NOTICE TO READERS

Please be aware that when  
purchasing a puppy there are  
some simple guidelines you can  
follow to ensure that you are not  
purchasing from a Puppy  
Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the  
puppy whilst it is still with it's  
Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a  
puppy from any other location  
than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any  
KC documentation, if pedigree.  
Whilst Midland News  
Association publications take  
great care to avoid publication  
of advertisements from Puppy  
Farmers we cannot accept any  
liability should readers  
purchase from this kind of  
establishment.

**KITTEN** black and white female, £25  
to adopt. 01902 218944.

**KITTENS X 2.** Female, tortoiseshell,  
eight weeks, litter trained, £30  
each. 07734 208600.

### accommodation to let

### NOTICE TO READERS

It is an  
offence under the Accommodation  
Agencies Act 1983, for an Agency  
to charge a fee simply for the regis-  
tration of your requirements and/or  
supplying particulars of premises to let.

**DUDLEY** Clean, furnished bedsit  
with own bath/kitchen, £87 p/w, for  
mature DSS. 07550 002549.

**HIGH QUALITY** Self contained  
studio flat, suit mature  
single person, most bills paid,  
DSS considered. 07715 603557.

### SMART ROOMS in shared house.

Netherton, from £85 pwk Single,  
£95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS.  
07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

### overseas property

### NOTICE TO READERS

Readers are advised to seek  
independent legal advice before  
entering into any financial commit-  
ments.

### YOUNG BORDER COLLIES

We have in our care 5 Border  
Collies, aged 15 months,  
2 girls, 3 boys. They are small,  
short haired and tri colour.

They're very sweet natured  
dogs and good with other dogs  
and cats.

### Also Buster

9 month old blue merle Border  
Colly, friendly boy whose good  
with other dogs and cats.

For more information  
telephone

01588 676106.

[www.dogsamaritans.org.uk](http://www.dogsamaritans.org.uk)

### vets

### Express & Star

### THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our  
customers get a  
great response  
from Classified  
Advertising.

So could you by  
calling our friendly  
experienced Sales  
Advisors on  
01902 319191.

### 5 Business & Farming

### business opportunities

**READERS** are recommended to  
take appropriate professional  
advice before entering any obli-  
gations.

### 6 Property



## properties wanted

**WE PAY 100% of purchase price****Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE**  
You agree the price, we buy the house.

- NO AGENTS FEES
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS
- ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

30 yrs

**0800 999 999 6**or 01902 628047 24/7 [www.black-countryhomes.co.uk](http://www.black-countryhomes.co.uk)**ClassifiedAds** BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL**CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...**

We have been advertising in the Express &amp; Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL  
**01902 319 191**Brought to you by  
**Express & Star****Need to sell your home fast?****Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS**We can help you make a fresh start  
With solutions to suit... you can clear your debts and make a fresh startALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED  
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT  
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS  
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE  
LOCAL COMPANY**MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS**WHY NOT CALL US TODAY  
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

\*Terms and Conditions apply

**0121 405 0797** OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7**Home Cash Buyer**

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

**£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££****Houses / Land Required**Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154

Walsall &amp; Cannock area: Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901

[www.homecashbuyer.co.uk](http://www.homecashbuyer.co.uk)**ClassifiedAds** BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL**IT WORKS FOR ME**

We have been advertising in the Express &amp; Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL  
**01902 319 191**Brought to you by  
**Express & Star****ClassifiedAds**

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

**CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...**

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL  
**01902 319 191**Brought to you by  
**Express & Star****BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL**

01902 317878

**ClassifiedAds**

8

**Motoring**

cars over £1500



AUDI A1

1.6TDI, SE SPORTSBACK

5-dr, FSH, MoT June, 2 remote control keys, 15,630 miles, mechanically warranted, usual standard features, free tax.

£9,750 ono.

07916 252817.



BMW 118D M SPORT

2010, 51,150 miles, silver, full BMW service history, just had service including safety inspection at Knights BMW Stafford. New rear pads. Half leather.

£8,125.

07740 198765.

7  
**Jobs****employment wanted****EXPERIENCED BRICKLAYER** requires employment, all types of brickwork, private and commercial. 07534 767256.**GENT 56** worked in national sales, seeks part time driving or similar. 07921 513088.**motor trade****MANUAL/COMMERCIAL GEARBOX BUILDER** (Salary depending on experience) Must be experienced in all areas of refurbishing. Varied variety of gearboxes to build to high standard. Based in Birmingham. Please send your CV to: [trudy@powertransmissions.uk.com](mailto:trudy@powertransmissions.uk.com) or Tel: 0121 773 9931

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

full time - general

**RYDALE WINDOWS**  
(Manufacturing) Ltd

Established over 31 years

**Experienced Conservatory and Window Fitters**

Must have experience within the industry

Based in Long Lane, Halesowen

Good rates of pay &amp; working conditions

Please forward c.v. to:

[stuart.humpherson@rydalewindows.co.uk](mailto:stuart.humpherson@rydalewindows.co.uk) or telephone 0121 559 4211**MONDAY  
TUESDAY  
WEDNESDAY  
JOBSDAY  
FRIDAY  
SATURDAY  
SUNDAY**

Be the first to see the latest jobs from the region's biggest and best employers.

Only in your Express &amp; Star

**Express & Star****jobs.expressandstar.com**  
REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU**LOOK**

CITROEN C3 COOL 1.4

57 Reg., silver, fsh.

MoT to September 2017.

33,000 miles.

5Dr hatchback.

CD, AC.

Excellent condition.

£2,650.

07715 958800.



MERCEDES CLK 200 CONVERTIBLE

2001, 85,000 miles, long MoT, full leather, all usual Mercedes refinements, excellent condition.

£2,750 ono.

07984 606575.



MERCEDES SMART CAR

Passion convertible, 2007, 28,000 miles, 60 mpg. MoT May 17, service history. Full documents, 2 keys, semi Auto, private plate value £250.

Good reason for sale.

£1,950 ono.

07768 642821/01902 790879.

**DIESEL**

PEUGEOT 207 1.6HDI

58 reg, met grey, full MoT,

115,000 miles, 10 Service stamps, £30 tax, well looked after

£2,195.

07796 761902.

PEUGEOT 207, 56 reg, 1360cc, lady owner, red, with red/black interior, full MoT, 42,000 miles, good condition, £1,950. Offers: 07973 483797.



RENAULT CLIO

EXPRESSION DIESEL

2008, 92,000 miles, fsh, £30 tax, ABS, fsh, long MoT, central locking, PAS, diesel, alloys, 3dr.

£1,599.

07879 403302.

**1ST TO SEE WILL BUY**

SMART FOR TWO PULSE CAR

52 reg, yellow and silver, 58,990 miles, semi automatic, tax £30 pa, MoT September 2017, excellent condition, immaculate,

£1,700 ono.

07880 255895 or 0121 6020291.

**RARE CAR**

TOYOTA COROLLA T SPORT

02 plate. 1.8. 190bhp.

12 months MoT.

Good condition for year.

Genuine callers.

£1,650 ono.

07703 548050 / 07773 354042.

cars under £1500

**BARGAIN**

FIAT PUNTO 1.2

05 reg, low miles/gae.

CD player, alloys, MoT.

Electric windows.

Good condition.

£595.

Telephone 07754 557861.

FORD KA

Very good condition, 2004,

55,600 miles, silver, air bag,

long MoT, 2 new front tyres and new front break discs! Serviced regularly. Lady owner.

£550.

01902 894937.

FORD MONDEO TDCI 2002,

119,000 Miles, silver, abs, alarm,

MoT, central locking, diesel, CD,

towbar, lost logbook, £400, 07768 261696

£995 ono

0121 557 2706



FORD FIESTA ZETEC

2006, 98,000 miles, black, 1.4, 3 door, electric windows, air bags, radio/CD player, MoT until March 27, 2017, private sale, Cat C repaired.

£1,095 ono.

07850 525063.

**BARGAIN**

JAGUAR X-TYPE

2.0 V6 SE

Petrol, manual, 2003, dark blue colour, pale leather, two owners, 74,000 miles, new MoT, emissions perfect lovely,

£950.

SOLD



PEUGEOT 407

2007, 102,000 miles, light blue, ABS, electric windows, alarm, long MoT, central locking, pas, diesel, good condition, 50mpg, cambelt recently changed.

£995 ono

0121 557 2706

..... **LIMITED OFFER** .....

**SELL YOUR CAR FOR ONLY £9.99\*\***

**FOR 6 NIGHTS IN PRINT AND ONLINE**



FIAT PUNTO 1.0

2001, bright red, 55,000 miles,

6 months MoT, radio/CD player,

new tyres, some history,

ideal first car.

Advert example only

£1,200 o.n.o

01902 123456.



PEUGEOT 207 2.0 PETROL

2003, metallic gold,

nice interior, all electric, fsh, full MoT, sunroof, radio/CD player,

very good condition.

Advert example only.

£2,600 o.n.o

01902 123456.



RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0 DIESEL

2005, 5dr, black metallic, full MoT, 56K, dealer serviced, sat nav, fsh, leather interior, in car D system, excellent condition, (Advert example only)

£2,500 o.n.o

01902 123456.

**5 GREAT REASONS TO SELL YOUR CAR IN THE EXPRESS & STAR**

1. \*91% of **CUSTOMERS** would **RECOMMEND** our services.
2. We reach over **680,000** potential buyers a week.
3. At only £9.99 we give **UNRIVALLED** value for money.
4. The price you see is the price you pay, **NO HIDDEN COSTS**.
5. For your convenience you can **TALK TO US**, or **BOOK ONLINE**.

**Call us on 01902 317878**or book online at [bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)\* 135 customers surveyed July 2016)  
\*\* Private advertisers only**ClassifiedAds**



# Classified Ads

**BARGAIN**

TOYOTA AVENTIS T3-S  
1794 CC  
2005 reg.  
Silver. Hatchback.  
93,000 miles.  
MoT May 2017.  
Radio/tape/cd/player.  
Navigator.  
**£1,195 ono.**  
07424 633816.

TOYOTA CELICA VVTi  
185g / km, 102 067 miles.  
petrol, 3 months MoT,  
Nice condition, red colour.  
**£750**  
**07896 919610.**

**4X4**

TOYOTA RAV 4  
  
2000 plate, very low mileage,  
long MoT, top of the range,  
immaculate condition, 2 keys.  
**£750 ono.**  
**01902 756922 or 07870 959324.**

**MUST BE SEEN**

VAUXHALL ASTRA ARCTIC  
R Reg., 1998, red, 1600cc,  
12 months MoT, no advisories,  
43,000 genuine miles, alloy  
wheels, brand new JVC  
CD/radio with i-phone  
adapter, drives superb,  
interior immaculate.  
**£550 o.n.o.**  
**07865 290473.**

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 Design, 53  
plate, lady owner, FSH, MoT, £500.  
07599 220780.

**BARGAIN**

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3,  
CDTi,  
  
Diesel, 2005, 3dr, silver,  
116,000 miles, power steering,  
central locking, electric  
windows, CD player, history,  
long mot, bargain  
**£1095.**  
**07424 525196.**

**1ST TO SEE  
WILL BUY**

VAUXHALL VECTRA  
02 plate. Petrol.  
1.8. Silver.  
Immaculate condition.  
FSH. All new parts.  
Mot February 23, 2017.  
**£550 ono.**  
**01902 780189.**

ADVERTISERS ARE  
REMINDED  
that the Business Advertisements  
(Disclosure) Order of  
1977 requires that advertise-  
ments must clearly  
differentiate between Private  
and Trade.

**classic cars**

**CLASSIC CAR**  
JAGUAR XJ12 COUPE  
The car has been stored for  
many years, good body,  
requires paint and mechanical  
overhaul, no MoT,  
**£5,450.**  
**0121 3537220 or 07880 003884.**

**CLASSIC CAR**  
JAGUAR XJ6 COUPE  
Good solid car, black, much  
recent expenditure, excellent  
mechanically, new MoT,  
**£6,950.**  
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WANTED, CLASSIC CARS. Private  
cash buyer. Instant cash settle-  
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01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

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TRANSIT 2.0 white, Nov 03, MoT  
Nov 16, very good runner, £1,195  
ono. 07805 667478/01902 898072.

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10 Hours £125! Four Hours £40!  
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered  
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**scrap vehicles**

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded  
that it is an offence under the Scrap  
Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy  
scrap cars without a MoT.

**MCB**  
TOP PRICES PAID FOR  
ALL SCRAP CARS,  
VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS  
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1000's of parts  
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0121 557 0400.  
Oldbury Area.

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**9 Local  
Information**

**public & legal  
notices**

ERNEST REGINALD  
BRAZIER (Deceased)  
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any  
persons having a claim against or an  
interest in the Estate of the afore-  
mentioned deceased, late of 1 Juliet  
Road Lapal Halesowen West Midlands,  
who died on 22/12/2015, are required to  
send particulars thereof in writing to the  
undersigned Solicitors on or before  
30/12/2016, after which date the Estate  
will be distributed having regard only to  
claims and interests of which they have  
had notice.  
**M J DARBY & COMPANY**  
107 Kent Road Halesowen B62 8PB  
T48066

**JOYCE LOREEN CONYERS  
(Deceased)**  
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any  
persons having a claim against or an  
interest in the Estate of the afore-  
mentioned deceased, late of 20 Manor  
Abbey Road Halesowen West Midlands  
B62 0AQ, who died on 15/09/2016, are  
required to send particulars thereof in  
writing to the undersigned Solicitors on  
or before 30/12/2016, after which date the  
Estate will be distributed having regard  
only to claims and interests of which they  
have had notice.  
**SILKS SOLICITORS LIMITED**  
27 Birmingham Street Oldbury  
West Midlands B69 4DY T484841

**JOYCE LOREEN CONYERS  
(Deceased)**  
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any  
persons having a claim against or an  
interest in the Estate of the afore-  
mentioned deceased, late of 20 Manor  
Abbey Road Halesowen West Midlands  
B62 0AQ, who died on 15/09/2016, are  
required to send particulars thereof in  
writing to the undersigned Solicitors on  
or before 30/12/2016, after which date the  
Estate will be distributed having regard  
only to claims and interests of which they  
have had notice.  
**SILKS SOLICITORS LIMITED**  
27 Birmingham Street Oldbury  
West Midlands B69 4DY T484841

**10 Personals**

**general**

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ment today? We would respect-  
fully remind advertisers that it is  
their responsibility to inform the  
publishers of any mistakes or in-  
accuracies on the first day of publica-  
tion.

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PLOT £500.**  
Sale due to move from the  
area.  
Council Permission has been  
given to sell.  
Call for details 01952 811268  
or 07964 731520.

**Stuck for a gift for  
Christmas?**

**10 Local  
Information**

**public & legal  
notices**

ERNEST REGINALD  
BRAZIER (Deceased)  
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any  
persons having a claim against or an  
interest in the Estate of the afore-  
mentioned deceased, late of 1 Juliet  
Road Lapal Halesowen West Midlands,  
who died on 22/12/2015, are required to  
send particulars thereof in writing to the  
undersigned Solicitors on or before  
30/12/2016, after which date the Estate  
will be distributed having regard only to  
claims and interests of which they have  
had notice.  
**M J DARBY & COMPANY**  
107 Kent Road Halesowen B62 8PB  
T48066

**Stuck for a gift for  
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**10 Local  
Information**

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ERNEST REGINALD  
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mentioned deceased, late of 1 Juliet  
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send particulars thereof in writing to the  
undersigned Solicitors on or before  
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claims and interests of which they have  
had notice.  
**M J DARBY & COMPANY**  
107 Kent Road Halesowen B62 8PB  
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ment. Any age. Any condition.  
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**To Reply by text:**  
Text... REPLY25 (leave space) box number (leave  
space) and then enter your message & send to  
09096. REPLY25 125453 hi get in touch...  
no time wasters pls. Text only Mailbox: 5548538

**VERY attractive intelligent blonde,**  
59, WLTM tall attractive solvent man.  
Tattoos, 40-50s works. Text only  
Mailbox: 5430085

**JESSIE** sophisticated,  
well educated brunette lady, 38yrs,  
WLTM man of any age for discreet  
chats, meetings and more.  
Age/looks unimportant must have  
SOH. Box 4107857

**RENATA**, 55, slim, attractive lady  
with long auburn hair just wants to  
have a good time with likeminded  
older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status  
unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 424263

**CAROLINE**, bored housewife 42,  
seeking a little excitement. Are you  
30+ and discreet, if so ping me a text  
and give me a few details. Box:  
4078682

**LOUISE**, 40, elegant genuine blonde  
who's been hurt in the past seeks tall  
handsome male to be her Mr Right.  
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
424261

**MELANIE**, 49yrs, varied interests,  
attractive, sensual lady seeks gent  
any age or status, call, see what  
happens. Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 424337

**CALLING all Gentlemen!** I'm Janet  
a mature solvent stylish lady, I'm  
waiting for you to call me so we can  
wine/dine and have some good times  
encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box  
No: 424335

**BABS**, single mum looking for adult  
companionship, any age/looks or  
status. Interested? Come on over to  
my place. Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 424253

**Hi I'm Angie**, attractive petite mid 50s  
lady. I'm a very very active lady, with  
lots of interests. WLTM chap with  
GSOH, looks/age unimportant. Tel  
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
424333

**HELLO Gents**, I'm a mature  
attractive interesting lady, with  
gorgeous eyes. I'm smart,  
sophisticated, love theatre and films.  
Give me a call or text me. Looks  
unimportant, must be kind. ACA. Tel  
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
424331

**SICK of being stuck on the shelf**,  
Jenny, 45, attractive female seeks  
N/S caring male 42-55 who feels the  
same to share adult companionship,  
meals/in, out, possibly LTR. Tel No:  
0906 500 3955 Box No: 424225

**ATtractive professional lady**, 57,  
widow, likes dining out, country pubs,  
good conversation and laughter,  
seeks genuine professional gent,  
with a goish with similar interests,  
to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 500  
3955 Box No: 424157

**JENNY**, looking for a man, 45-55, for  
adult fun, must be discreet. Tel No:  
0906 500 3955 Box No: 423827

**SENSUAL** tactile, attractive female,  
long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves  
travel, wining/dining, WLTM genuine  
male for mutual companionship.  
Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500  
3955 Box No: 424231

**Hi I'm Pam**, 42, slim, blonde, green  
eyes, discreet, loves cuddles,  
seeking similar discreet tactile male  
for mutual friendship with benefits.  
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
424101

**LOUISE**, 39, tactile good-looking  
solvent female WLTM spontaneous  
male for holidays, spoiling and lots of  
fun times. Age/looks/status  
unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 424055

**NAOMI**, 43, attractive fun loving  
female lots of love to offer a  
genuine caring guy. Come on, lets  
share all the good things in life has to  
offer together! Tel No: 0906 500  
3955 Box No: 424085

**CLARA**, 32yr Irish lass working  
away from home and friends, lonely  
and looking for older male  
companionship with no ties or  
complications. Tel No: 0906 500  
3955 Box No: 424021

**FEEMALE** 50, seeks male of similar  
age for friendship, possible  
relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 350529

**AMY** 31yr old single mum, new to  
the area, looking to meet male  
companionship to help make me settle in  
and feel special again, age/status  
unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 424051

**TALL**, slim and curvy woman,  
57, attractive with GSOH and varied  
interests, seeks similar man 50-65  
Bristol area, for discreet  
assignments. Text only Mailbox:  
5548538

**DIANE**, loving and caring, young 72  
year old, blond hair, brown eyes,  
smoker, looking for genuine male  
with goish, for friendship, Walsall  
area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box  
No: 424025

**ELLA**, 46, slim confident brunette,  
tired of spending lonely nights alone,  
seeking honest, romantic male  
to enjoy nights out, hopefully leading to  
more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box  
No: 424015

**JANE**, attractive blonde lady,  
genuine, sincere, likes theatre, meals  
out, looking to meet nice looking  
professional single man. Text only  
Mailbox: 5553192

**JULIE**, attractive early 40's brunette,  
size 10, varied interests, WLTM male  
for fun times, good conversations,  
spoiling and maybe more. status  
unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 423903

**TALL**, 63-year-old male, seeking n/s  
female, 45+, for hassle free fun  
times, in the Wolverhampton and  
surrounding areas. Tel No: 0906  
500 3955 Box No: 424291

**SIMON**, kind hearted, average  
looking chap, 44yrs, own business,  
sporty, fun loving. Would like to  
meet a genuine lady to spoil and  
pamper. Box: 4138405

**ADVENTUROUS** 36-year-old male,  
slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling  
and photography, seeks female for  
friendship, maybe more. Tel No:  
0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235

**GENT** 48, youthful outlook, likes  
countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks  
solitary male for fun times. N  
Shropshire. Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 408411

**RETIRED** male seeking  
companionship maybe more. No  
time wasters. Text only Mailbox:  
5542315

**ITALIAN** male, 46, from Oldbury,  
seeking female, 30-50, for friendship,  
possible relationship. Tel No: 0906  
500 3955 Box No: 424371

**TIM**, young at heart, intelligent, fun  
loving, spontaneous, GSOH, WLTM  
a lady with a GSOH, for friendship  
and possibly more. Tel No: 0906  
500 3955 Box No: 424395

**ATtractive**, Tall and intelligent  
Black male 50, lover of animals and  
nature seeks solvent lady of quality  
50+ for romance. Text only Mailbox:  
5561456

**47 year old guy**, 517, dark hair, blue  
eyes, likes DVDs, nights in and out,  
seeks female, 42-49, in Leamington  
Spa/Rugby area, for friendship and  
long term relationship. Tel No: 0906  
500 3955 Box No: 424325

**ANDY**, single, 53, looking for a  
mature, sexy lady, age/looks  
unimportant, for fun and adventure.  
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
422893

**MALE**, mid 60s, honest person, lots  
of interests, looking for a lady, 45-65,  
to share the good times with. Tel  
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424321

**NICE** old-fashioned gent, seeks kind,  
caring romantic lady for LTR. Tel No:  
0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905

**JAY**, attractive, 6H2, single father,  
loves a laugh and a giggle, looking  
for a lady for evenings out, company  
and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500  
3955 Box No: 424303

**STEVE**, 53yr old male, laid back,  
likes most things in life, seeks female  
40-50, for evenings out, need some  
TLC in my life. Text only Mailbox:  
4362854

**JOHN**, looking for a mature lady for  
relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 423789

**MALE**, 44, very interesting person,  
own business, sporty, honest and  
genuine, likes nights out, meals out,  
cinema, country walks, WLTM a lady  
for friendship and good company  
leading to a permanent relationship.  
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
420841

**WHITE** curvy lady any age, required  
by handsome black professional  
male, for discreet casual adult fun.  
No time wasters pls. Text only  
Mailbox: 5066605

**ROB**, 63, fit, slim, own hair own  
teeth, young at heart, considered  
good looking, OHAC, solvent, so get  
back if you're interested. Tel No:  
0906 500 3955 Box No: 424027

**HELLO I** am an easy going chap and  
I WLTM a lady, 55-65 for a  
permanent relationship, so please get  
in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 424131

**TONY** from Walsall, mid 50s, stocky  
build, looking to meet a lady who  
likes to go to the cinema, have fun  
times, so please get in touch if you're  
interested. Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 424067

**MALE** looking for lady for no strings  
adult fun on a regular basis, within 10  
miles of Walsall is preferred but not  
essential, age/looks unimportant. Tel  
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420873

**64 year old male**, living in  
Northampton, WLTM a lady between  
50-75 for friendship and outings. Tel  
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419299

**PHIL**, 53, 5H7, stocky athletic build,  
likes keep fit, swimming, cosy nights  
in, meals out, WLTM an honest,  
attractive, caring lady, with similar  
interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955  
Box No: 421385

**MALE** 40s, own business,  
professional, likes to enjoy life, clubs,  
pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar  
female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box  
No: 360283

**SEAN** mixed race 44, seeks female,  
looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500  
3955 Box No: 392363

**NOTTINGHAM** Steve 59, N/S,  
GSOH, loyal, sincere, likes meals  
out, cinema, walks, seeks sincere  
female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500  
3955 Box No: 401177

**MALE** 43, slim, non-smoker, open  
minded, looking for naughty liaisons  
with a naughty minded lady for  
naughty fun only. Text only Mailbox:  
5543476

**40YR** old easy going guy, athletic  
and loves life is looking for some fun  
with a like minded girl. Text only  
Mailbox: 5545609

**MARK** 6ft, grey hair, 49, seeks  
female for friendship, maybe more.  
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:  
391454

**47 year old guy**, lots of interests,  
seeks female, 42-49, for LTR, in the  
Leamington Spa/Rugby area. Tel  
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423997

**GEORGE** 48, seeking mature female  
50 to 80 for no strings adult fun. Text  
only Mailbox: 5525079

**PROFESSIONAL** male, been hurt  
before, looking for female, 30-42,  
give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500  
3955 Box No: 423991

**MALE**, young looking 70, 5H8,  
decent looking, down to earth, likes  
horses, driving, holidays, good  
company, looking for female partner  
to share nice things in life. Tel No:  
0906 500 3955 Box No: 423909

**DAVE** genuine guy, 6ft, black hair,  
blue eyes, medium build, likes  
sports, gardening, music, seeks  
female with GSOH and genuine. Tel  
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368372

**ATTRACTIVE** open-minded male  
57, seeks open-minded female any  
age or status to share adult times.  
Text only Mailbox: 541080

**YOUNG** 66-year-old attractive male  
would love to meet lovely lady for  
friendship, to enjoy meals out etc.  
Text only Mailbox: 5536750

**MALE**, attractive, tall, medium build  
and intelligent would like to meet  
genuine mature caring lady who  
wishes for a sincere relationship.  
Text only Mailbox: 5537519

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# MOTORING | YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO THE BEST CARS ON THE MARKET

## New Mazda3 hits the road

There are some subtle visual changes to the new Mazda3 – but combined with some major changes beneath the surface, you get the impression of a brand new car.

Never judge a book by its cover though. Underneath the stylish skin there is a very different story indeed. A raft of improvements inside and out makes the 2017 model quieter, smoother, more refined and safer.

Billed on the Mazda website as “The 2017 Mazda3 – an exhilarating sporty Hatchback with low fuel consumption, the revamped exterior design conveys power, beauty and dynamic motion in every detail.

### Experience

“Through further advancements in our renowned SKYACTIV Technology, 2017 Mazda3 further enhances the driving experience, providing you with an unmatched level of driving enjoyment, whilst still achieving excellent fuel economy.

“Advanced i-ACTIVSENSE safety features ensure you stay in safe hands while in-cabin infotainment system MZD Connect keeps you connected to internet radio and social media.”

With a choice of two petrol engines and two diesels prices for the new model range from £17,595 to £24,195. Our motoring writer John Griffiths has put the new Mazda to the test. Read his full review on page 38.



**MAZDA3 - QUIETER, SMOOTHER AND MORE REFINED. READ OUR ROAD TEST ON PAGE 38**

### News in brief

## SsangYong announces the launch of pick-up

SsangYong has announced the launch of the Musso one-tonne pick-up.

Powered by a smooth and refined 2.2 litre Euro 6 turbo-diesel engine, the new Musso pick-up delivers huge value.

Designed to appeal to those who need a competitively priced work truck, the practicality of 4-wheel drive, the towing capability to haul up to three tonnes yet also the appointments of a family car, it's ideal for towing a work trailer, boat trailer or horse box.

“Our commercial vehicles represent an intrinsic part of the SsangYong range,” says Paul Williams, CEO of SsangYong Motor UK, “and we decided to reintroduce the Musso name to differentiate this superb utility truck from our passenger cars. Musso – which means rhinoceros in Korean

– is a tough, robust proposition for any trade, and with a specification, price and warranty no others can compete with.”

The new Musso goes on sale in the UK this month, and will feature a newly developed Euro 6 turbo-diesel engine to meet the demand for a more powerful performance and lower CO2 emissions at the same time. There are two models in the range. The SE includes a new-look front grille and dashboard, as well as silver finish 18" alloy wheels and hard wearing 'leather look' TPU seat upholstery. It is priced from £15,995 ex VAT. Further information is available from [www.ssangyonggb.co.uk](http://www.ssangyonggb.co.uk)



SsangYong pick-up



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10/10	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 EXCLUSIV AUTOMATIC 5-dr.	Grey, 75,000 miles.....	£4295	09/09	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 DESIGN 5-dr.	Automatic. Black, 45,000 miles.....	£3995
11/61	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE Automatic, 5-dr.	68,000 miles, Grey.....	£4995	11/11	HYUNDAI i10 ACTIVE 5-dr.	Grey, 15,000 miles.....	£4995
10/10	FORD FIESTA 1.25 EDGE 3-dr.	37,000 miles, Blue.....	£5295	09/59	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 ACTIVE PLUS 5-dr.	Silver, 34,000 miles.....	£5295
11/60	NISSAN NOTE 1.5 DCi N-TEC 5-dr.	49,000 miles, Red.....	£5695	09/09	FIAT 500 1.2 LOUNGE 3-dr.	White, 43,000 miles.....	£5495
09/09	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi EXCLUSIV 5-dr.	68,000 miles, Grey.....	£5695	13/13	SUZUKI SWIFT SZ3 DDIS 5-dr.	Silver, 22,000 miles.....	£6695
13/62	FORD KA 1.2 ZETEC 3-dr.	24,000 miles, Red.....	£5395	11/11	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.7CDTi ELITE 7 Seater,	49,000 miles, Blue.....	£7495
11/61	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SE 5-dr.	32,000 miles, Grey.....	£5995	12/61	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi SRI 5-dr.	Silver, 78,000 miles.....	£7995
12/12	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8 ES 5-dr.	47,000 miles, Silver.....	£6295	12/12	FORD KUGA 2.0TDCi TITANIUM 5-dr,	Silver, 29,000 miles.....	£12,995
15/64	RENAULT TWINGO 1.0 SCE PLAY 5-dr.	Blue, 3000 miles.....	£6495	<b>COMMERCIAL VEHICLES</b>			
13/63	PEUGEOT 208 1.2 ACTIVE 5-dr.	16,000 miles, Silver.....	£6995	12/62	VAUXHALL VIVARO 2700 SWB VAN	Black, 68,000 miles.....	£7995 NO VAT
14/63	FIAT 500 1.2 LOUNGE 3-dr.	White, 8000 miles.....	£7295	15/64	VAUXHALL VIVARO 1.6 CDTi 2900 VAN	10,000 miles, White.....	£11,295 + VAT
13/13	FORD FIESTA 1.5 TDCi ZETEC 5-dr.	56,000 miles, Silver.....	£7495	14/64	VAUXHALL VIVARO 1.6 CDTi 2900 VAN	20,000 miles, White.....	£11,495 + VAT
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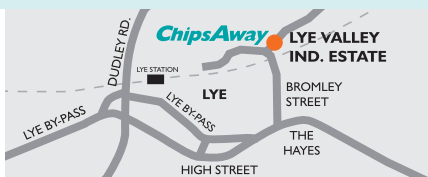
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## MOTORING

# E-Class Estate and GLC Coupe range expanded

By James Parker

Three new engines have been added to the E-Class Estate range, which now starts at £36,735 for the E 200 d SE. The E 350 d SE is priced from £47,255, while the Mercedes-AMG E 43 costs £58,290. The existing E 220 d Estate starts from £38,230.

The 200 d features the latest 2.0-litre diesel engine with an output of 150 hp and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of just 109 g/km. It delivers 65.7 mpg on the combined cycle. The 3.0-litre V6 E 350 d produces 258 hp while delivering up to 48.7 mpg and emitting 140 g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>.

The Mercedes-AMG E 43 4MATIC Estate features a bi-turbo 3.0-litre V6 petrol engine which generates 401 hp – enabling it to reach 62 mph from standstill in 4.7 seconds. All E-Class engines come as standard with a 9G-TRONIC automatic transmission (with shorter shift times for the E 43). Standard specification on the E-Class Estate mirrors that in the E-Class Saloon, but with the addition of standard split-folding rear seats. Command Online with a 12.3-inch screen comes as standard on the E 350 d, and customers can add to this with the 12.3-inch cockpit display for £495.

For the first time, the E 220 d Saloon is available with 4MATIC four-wheel drive – it's priced from £37,730 (£1,500 over the rear-wheel drive 220 d). It



Mercedes-Benz GLC Coupé is now available with a V6 3.0-litre diesel

accelerates from 0 to 62 mph in 7.5 seconds, and has rear-biased torque distribution of 45:55.

All E-Class Estate models are now available with an optional folding bench seat in the boot, for £1,250. This provides an extra rear-facing two Artico-covered seats – which are specifically designed for use by children under 115 cm (3 ft 9 in) in height – and is stored under the load compartment floor when not in use. An Easy-Pack load securing kit can be specified for an additional £295. This provides rails in the load compartment floor with a telescopic bar that means luggage can be safely clamped against the rear seats or side wall.

An AMG carbon fibre package is

available on both Mercedes-AMG E 43 bodystyles for £1,575 – it includes exterior mirror casings and an AMG spoiler lip (saloon only) finished in carbon fibre.

The GLC Coupé is now also available with the V6 3.0-litre diesel, producing 258 hp. The GLC 350 d 4MATIC Coupé can sprint from 0 to 62 mph in 6.2 seconds, emits 161 g/km of CO<sub>2</sub> and delivers up to 47.1 mpg on the combined cycle. It is available from £47,135. The Mercedes-AMG GLC 43 4MATIC Coupé can now be ordered from £50,960. Its bi-turbo 3.0-litre V6 petrol engine produces 367 hp, making for 0-62 mph in 4.9 seconds and an electronically limited top speed of 155 mph.

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# Don't judge car by its cover — look inside



New Mazda 3 starts from £17,595 – looks pretty much the same externally, but what's inside?

By John Griffiths

**This is one for real car enthusiasts of the future: what's the difference between the 'old' Mazda version?**

The answer – in visual terms – is a little testing because the changes are indeed subtle. But underneath the skin is a very different story. It sounds and feels like a whole new car, as it benefits from some of the latest technology handed down from the flagship Mazda6. The use of new and higher quality materials in the cabin is obvious. But the real story is how the 2017 car feels to drive – quieter, smoother and more refined – as well as being safer.

Prices range from £17,595 to £24,195, meaning a model for model increase of around £200 despite the raft of improvements. There are two petrol engines and two diesels, including the tax-busting 1.5 litre oil burner added to the 3 range last year with its 99g/km CO2 rating.

It's a good-looker in any company, particularly (for me) the coupe styling of the Fastback model, although the hatchback is likely to be the biggest seller. There's no mistaking where 'Son of 3' gets its sleek looks from. The changes are in the detail, with a bolder new grille and badge and revised fog lamp housing, plus a new bumper for hatchback models. The real giveaway is the new door mirrors which now incorporate wrap-around indicator lights.

The overall impression of the cabin is of a major upgrade, thanks to higher quality materials and new trim. The adoption of an electronic handbrake (which automatically releases as you let in the clutch) frees up space for a bigger centre console storage box with sliding cover. What you don't see, but do experience as you drive, is the considerable extra soundproofing in the roof, doors, dashboard and transmission tunnel, as well as new door seals.

Whether petrol or diesel, the new Mazda3 must be one of the quietest cars in its class: indeed its a whispering rival to some more expensive brands. This sound reduction is enhanced on diesel models technology called transient control, which reduces turbo lag (meaning brisker, petrol-like initial acceleration) as well as reducing diesel rattle on start-up or under load.

But one of the biggest changes is Mazda's G-Vectoring – something you'll never hear, feel or see but will be imperceptibly be there, working away to make you seem a better, smoother driver.

Put simply, its computer brain monitors throttle and steering inputs and subtly varies torque between the driven wheels, aiding turn-in, traction and stability.

Combined with improvements to the MacPherson strut suspension, this endows the new 3 with a significantly smoother, more comfortable ride in a car which can match many a hot hatchback for its dynamic abilities.

While the instrument display is revised for greater clarity, a new head-up display atop the instrument binnacle is an excellent option. Now in colour, it displays your speed, the local speed limit and includes traffic sign recognition, as well as satnav instructions which are clearly displayed on a transparent perspex3 Hatchback is screen.

The 3 hatchback is a full five seater, with plenty of head and legroom for adults even in the rear. Boot space is 364 litres, rising to 1,263 litres with the rear seats folded flat.

The most economical engine is the 1.5 litre, 105PS turbo diesel, with 270Nm of torque (more than the 2.0 litre petrol stablemate) for quiet, easy cruising on long motorway runs. It's 0 to 62mph time is a class average 11 seconds, but those who go for this option will be attracted by its official 74.3mpg average economy, with a road tax free 99g/km CO2 rating. Perhaps more popular with the business sector will be the 150PS, 2.2 litre diesel with a whopping 380Nm of torque. It's the sprinter of the family yet is still credited with economy of just over 60mpg and a low 104g/km of CO2. The 2.0 litre petrol's vital statistics are 8.9 seconds, 55.4mpg, and 119g/km of CO2.

There are four trim levels to choose from, with impressive levels of equipment. Many of the technological options are safety-based, including the 'smart city brake' system which uses radar sensors to warn, and if necessary, brake the car to prevent a rear end collision.

There's also 'emergency indicators' – hard braking switches on the hazard warning lights for a few flashes, alerting drivers behind that you've just pulled up rather quicker than they might have expected.

The new Mazda3 hasn't changed a lot of the outside – but since it still looks sleek and modern, why would you change it?

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The Wolves 1907/08 home shirt that features in the book



Wolves' Championship 2002-03 play-off final shirt



Author Steve Plant, aged 55, from Stourbridge, with his Wolves book They Wore The Shirt

# Old gold memories as Wolves tops charted

**FEW** football shirts are as iconic as the old gold and black of Wolverhampton Wanderers.

First donned in 1889, the colours have graced the backs of Wolves greats through the good times and bad. Now the history of the shirt has been put in print by die-hard fan Steve Plant and the book was launched in style with a host of past and present players, club staff and hundreds of fans.

They Wore The Shirt, a 255-page coffee-table book, is the product of the author's vast personal collection and his commitment to documenting the history of the club through the shirt.

Only 1,877 copies have been produced – a nod to the year Wolves were formed – and it comprises glossy pictures of 113 shirts.

Plant, aged 55, said: "There are many shirts in there that people will never have seen before and perhaps didn't even know existed. It is the entire history of Wolves done from a different angle."

## Flannel

It begins by chronicling the club's inception and the team founded in 1877 by a group of pupils at Blakenhall's St Luke's school. Plant writes that knitted or worsted jerseys and later gentlemen's flannel dress shirts typically formed a player's attire at that time.

Most notably the shirt worn by the early St Luke's side featured blue and white hoops. By 1883 the club had switched to red and white vertical stripes – the reason still remains a mystery.

In 1889 gold and black was adopted for the first time to match the colours of Wolverhampton's coat of arms created a year earlier. The motto on the coat of arms read Out Of Darkness, Cometh Light – with black used to symbolise the dark and gold representing the light. After a brief return to red and white in 1890, a new Football League order requiring teams to

## SPORTING MEMORIES

By Rob Cox

*"It reminded me why I have given so many years, through good times and bad, watching Wolverhampton Wanderers."*

register official colours forced Wolves back into gold and black stripes to avoid a clash with Sunderland.

The earliest shirt pictured is the 1907-08 home jersey. It is believed to be the oldest Wolves jersey in existence. It came to Plant via a dusty attic in Canada.

There is a suggestion that it may have belonged to John Brodie, who played a key part in the formation of Wolverhampton Wanderers, with his family believed to have emigrated to Canada.

Other notable entries include the shirts worn by Wolves greats in the hugely successful 1950s.

Among them are the floodlight friendly fluorescent gold shirts made famous by a series of challenge matches against top Continental club sides.

Among the pictures are the very shirt worn by Honved hero Roy Swinbourne who provided the catalyst for the famous victory over the Hungarian side in 1954, shirts from Wolves FA Cup victories and an England shirt worn by Billy Wright against Germany.

A selection of popular Umbro shirts follow from between 1970 and 1986 including the 1977-79 home jersey, voted the club's most popular of all time in a Twitter poll conducted by Plant. The book then enters 'The Bully Years' with the iconic sponsors in-

cluding Staw Distribution, Mander Paint & Ink and Goodyear.

Its final section charts the Millennium Years including the 2002-03 play-off final shirt worn by goalscorer Nathan Blake.

Plant started collecting Wolves shirts to show his father John after he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and given just months to live by doctors.

He said: "I would take each shirt round to show him as I got it and you could see it would put a sparkle in his eye. That was when I started buying anything and everything Wolves related."

Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to Birmingham Children's Cancer Unit with the hope of raising £20,000.

## Favourites

Among those attending the launch at the WV1 Bar in the Stan Cullis Stand were current skipper Danny Batth, team-mates Nouha Dicko and Richard Stearman and old favourites Steve Bull, John Richards, Kenny Hibbitt, Phil Parkes, Willie Carr, Steve Daley and Colin Brazier. TV presenter Jacqui Oatley and former players George Elokobi and Matt Jarvis sent messages via a special video.

Plant said: "The Wolves shirt is the fabric of the club and it reminded me why I have given so many years, through good times and bad, watching Wolverhampton Wanderers."

Current players modelled the shirts for the book including Batth who said: "It's the story behind the strips that everyone's interested in and it's nice to be part of and to be able to show my support."

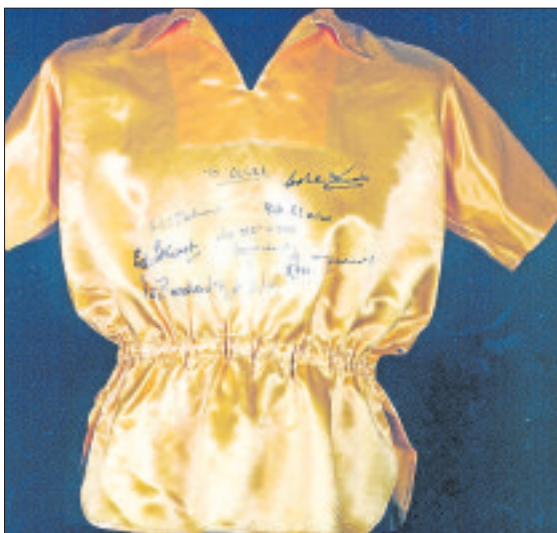
Record goalscorer Steve Bull said: "It's unbelievable. I didn't know what half of those shirts were like."

Hibbitt added: "Looking at some of the photographs in there brings a tear to your eye when you see all the boys."

For a copy, see [www.theyworetheshirt.co.uk](http://www.theyworetheshirt.co.uk)



Skipper Danny Batth models the 1980 League Cup winning shirt



The shirt worn Roy Swinbourne during the 1954 win over Honved



Legend Kenny Hibbitt leafs through the shirts history book



John Richards, with a 1974 Wembley shirt at the book launch at Molineux





## New chance for boxer to impress

BOXING under the Matchroom banner with the Sky Sports cameras rolling will come with a sense of déjà vu for Halesowen's Lennox Clarke.

The big-time again comes calling for the heavy-handed super middleweight prospect on Saturday.

Clarke has featured for Matchroom once before and at the same venue, the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham, back in May 2015.

The 25-year-old laboured to a routine four-round points victory over Alistair Warren on that occasion with a performance he feels didn't do him justice.

Then the match was made for him to return to the same arena for a shot at the Midlands middleweight title, against champion Craig Cunningham. But Clarke pulled out citing illness with Cunningham instead outpointing Adam Jones in a six-rounder. That sort of opportunity hasn't knocked since.

Clarke returned to small hall shows and has picked up four more victories, three by TKO. Two were first round stoppages, the other halted in the second. He now has 13 wins from 13.

Manager Errol Johnson has got him another chance to compete on the big stage, with Matchroom promoter Eddie Hearn again the man to impress. It will come just over a year to the day that he and Cunningham were set to battle for the belt, with this test ironically against Jones.

Clarke said: "I probably won't be live on Sky, because there's so much on the show. I'm not too bothered about that, as long as all of the right people are there. I'm looking to make a statement."

"I've been here before, I consider it the poorest boxing performance of my career against Warren but I still beat him easy, on my worst day, I'm determined to put that right, showing how good I can be."

## No miracle to save Heathen ambitions in KO Cup return

CRADLEY saw their season come to a disappointing conclusion with a 62-27 defeat at Eastbourne in their Knockout Cup semi-final second leg.

The Motor Market Heathens travelled to Arlington in need of a miracle to reach the Grand Final after going down 47-43 in the first leg at Monmore Green. No miracle was forthcoming. They were well beaten in wet conditions, suffering a heavy 108-71 aggregate loss.

It was a tough evening for Will Pottinger's side, who never recovered after conceding three 5-1s in the opening three races.

Skipper Max Clegg put in a fine display, reeling off four straight wins in his final four rides including victories over Adam Ellis in heats 13 and 15. But he received little support as the Heathens ran 13 last places – and he admitted they were simply beaten by a better team.

"It was a good night for myself, but it's a bit frustrating for the team to lose so heavily," Clegg said. "We knew it was going to be tough but I don't think we expected it to be that tough. Eastbourne were just a much better team than us."

## Old Hales U16s dominate cup match



Brad Mullett has the ball for Old Halesonians U16s

**Old Halesonians U16s 47 Malvern RFC 0**  
FOR the third week running the Old Hales U16s squad secured a commanding victory, this time in a crucial cup match.

Aiden Whilby powered through the defence for an early try. Fin Bridgewater converted. Minutes later Henry Thomas made an impressive weaving run, off-loading the ball for Whilby to score his second try with another successful kick.

Scrum-half Bridgewater, sped across the line for his first try of the match. Sam Higgins intercepted the ball as it dropped towards the line and it went out to Jack Saul, who raced back up the field to score. Another successful conversion by

### Junior Rugby

Bridgewater and it was Old Hales 26 and Malvern 0 at half time.

Malvern came with renewed vigour but Old Hales' defensive line held. Dylan De Sousa ran over to score one try and a little later off-loaded the ball to Tom King under the posts to allow him to add his name to the scoreboard. The tally rose to 40 with King taking two easy conversion kicks.

The game closed with Josh Gordon scoring his first try of the match which was converted with a very long and difficult kick by Jack Law.

## Friendly Droitwich too strong

**Droitwich 1sts 45 Old Hales 2nds 22**  
OLD Hales 2nds accepted a friendly game at Droitwich 1sts, who currently lead Midlands 3 West with an unblemished record.

Droitwich started strongly with a try that was easily converted. Old Hales raised the tempo and Tom Harris, playing out of position at scrum half, made a telling break to put Andy Holloway in for a try to make the score 7-5.

A good drive gave no8 James Saddler the opportunity to power his way over for a try, converted by Andy Holloway for a 7-12 lead.

Old Hales won the ball from a line-out but the attempted clearance kick was charged down by the Droitwich second-row who pounced to score. The conversion was successful.

Old Hales' dominant scrum helped to force the home side deep into their own half. Another powerful drive in the scrum gave Tom Harris a good base for an attack. He linked with Alex Herbert who slipped the ball to centre Jack Linehan who scored on the right.

Droitwich started the second half with a steely determination and quickly racked up three tries without reply, making the score 31-17.

Droitwich were still in attacking mode and their wing took the ball 35 metres at pace through the Old Hales defence to score.

Old Hales managed to get back into the game and were awarded a penalty in front of the Droitwich posts. They took a quick tap penalty and moved the ball to the right for Mike Topping to score in the corner to reduce the Droitwich lead to 38-22.

Old Hales were back on the attack again but Droitwich scored the final try of the game, sealing a 45-22 victory.

## Fenton kicks Old Hales Colts to victory

**Old Hales Colts 50 Worcester Colts 0**  
AN excellent display of rugby from Old Hales Colts made it four wins from four League matches to keep them at the top of the table. After only three minutes Joel Keenan had scored the first try, followed by a great conversion against the wind by Luke Fenton.

Then Fenton scored to the side of the posts and converted. Another Fenton try and conversion made it 21-0.

Keenan added another try and further scores were added by James Griffiths, Jack Elliot and Adam Babb. Three converted by Fenton to make it 47-0, at half-time. Worcs conceded the match at 50-0.

### Nantwich Town 1 Stourbridge 3

## STOURBRIDGE manager Gary Hackett was full of praise for his team after they powered their way into the FA Cup first round proper.

In front of 755 spectators at the impressive Weaver Stadium, the Glassboys produced a superb performance against their Northern Premier League rivals.

Stourbridge's reward for reaching the first round is a trip to National League South Whitehawk, one of the giant killers of last season's FA Cup.

The south coast club reached the second round of the competition after beating Lincoln City, before losing 3-2 at home to Dagenham & Redbridge in a replay.

On Saturday a Leon Broadhurst brace and a strike from Luke Benbow overcame the Glassboys' South Cheshire hosts, who lost skipper Sam Hall sent off for a second yellow card just before the break.

But Stourbridge also suffered a blow when substitute Justin Richards was stretchered off deep into stoppage-time with a suspected dislocated knee.

### Massive

"I thought that without doubt we were the better side and fully deserved the win," said Hackett. "It was a massive game for both teams but from the very first minute we were on top of our game from numbers one to 11."

"Leon Broadhurst fully deserved his goals but I thought that Chris Lait had his best game for us by far. The only minus was the injury to Justin which led to a restrained dressing room."

It took just eight minutes for Broadhurst to rise at the far post and head home Lait's cross for the opening goal. Benbow saw his 35-yard free-kick fly just wide before the striker was on hand to blast a loose ball past 'keeper Dave Parton for his side's second on 33 minutes. Rampant Stour then made it 3-0 three minutes later when Broadhurst volleyed home Lait's corner.

Glassboys stopper Matt Gould did well to parry a stinging drive from striker Sean Cooke but could do little to stop Josh Hancock's 39th-minute penalty, awarded for a foul on Cooke.



Leon Broadhurst celebrates his first goal during in FA Cup fourth qualifying round match at Nantwich

## Yeltz in first league defeat since August

### Halesowen Town 0 Matlock Town 3

MATLOCK inflicted Halesowen's first league defeat since August with three second half goals on Tuesday night. Halesowen's Kennedy Digie failed to find direction with two headers.

After the interval, Marcus Dinanga capitalised on poor home defending to fire the Gladiators into a 49th minute lead with a close range shot. In the 69th minute Dinanga smacked home his second from the edge of the area, following a weak back header from Asa Charlton.

After nearly claiming his hat-trick, Dinanga turned provider for Curtis Morrison.

**Grantham 2 Halesowen Tn 3**  
JAMES Hancocks' goal deep

into stoppage time claimed the points for the Yeltz.

Halesowen took a lead via Malcolm Melvin's free-kick. Grantham replied two minutes later through Luke Shaw. Kaiman Anderson put Hales back in front but the home side equalised when Felipe Barcelos converted from the spot. Hancocks decided it on 94 minutes.

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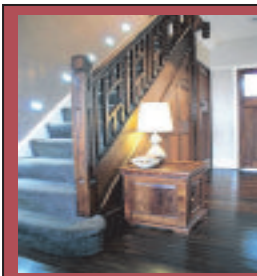
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